

Hurricane Helene

Situation Report #11 | Monday, October 7, 2024 | 11 AM EDT

REPORT DISTRIBUTION:

Public

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Incident Summary

The eye of Helene made landfall at 11:10 PM EDT September 26 as a Category 4 Hurricane with maximum wind speeds of 140 mph near Perry, Florida just east of the mouth of the Aucilla River. Helene weakened as it moved north through the Southeastern United States September 27-28, impacting parts of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana. The storm brought strong winds and heavy rainfall, which caused flooding in some states.

Electricity Sector Summary

- As of 10:00 AM EDT, October 7, approximately 280,000 customers are without power, down 94% from the region-wide peak of 4.6 million on September 27. Three states still are experiencing significant power outages from the storm, including outages affecting approximately 53,000 customers in South Carolina (2% of total state customers), 138,000 customers in North Carolina (3%), and 90,000 customers in Georgia (2%).
- Restorations after Helene are complex due to the extent of damage and ongoing access issues. Utilities have encountered widespread flooding and debris impeding access to damaged infrastructure, which delayed initial access to damaged infrastructure. Additional crews have been moving into the area to help restore power as floodwaters receded and roads are cleared.
- Utilities continue to publish estimated restoration times for the hardest hit areas and are beginning to identify the customers expected to experience longer-term outages due to continuing access issues, electricity infrastructure damage, and damage to customer structures. Electricity infrastructure in some of these hardest-hit areas may require an expedited rebuild, rather than traditional restoration. Utilities will work with state and local officials to coordinate this process.
- Utilities in the Southeast region made preparations prior to Helene, including pre-staging personnel, materials, and equipment. At least 50,000 personnel from 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada are responding to power outages in the Southeast and Appalachia.
- Industry is monitoring the path of Hurricane Milton and is preparing for possible electricity sector impacts to major metropolitan areas in Florida. Utilities are pre-positioning crews and resources in Florida to prepare for Milton, while maintaining the crews and resources in the Carolinas needed to respond to the continuing impacts from Hurricane Helene.

Hurricane Helene Customer Power Outages				
As of 10:00 AM EDT 10/7/24				
State	Current Outages	% State Without Power	Peak Storm Outages	% Restored from Peak
South Carolina	53,185	1.9%	1,372,295	96%
North Carolina	137,516	2.7%	1,004,273	86%
Georgia	90,185	1.6%	1,100,015	92%
TOTAL	280,886	--	--	--

Note: Virginia, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana have been removed from the table with less than 10,000 customers remaining without power.



Emergency Declarations and Waivers

To provide vital supplies and transportation services to a disaster area in the United States, emergency declarations may be issued by the President, Governors of States, or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). These declarations trigger the temporary suspension of certain Federal safety regulations, including Hours of Service, for motor carriers and drivers engaged in specific aspects of the emergency relief effort. See [49 CFR 390.23](#) for the actual emergency regulation.

Emergency Declarations and Hours of Service Transportation Waivers				
As of 10:00 AM EDT 10/7/2024				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	USDOT & FMCSA Regional Emergency Declaration and Extension of Emergency Declarations	10/4	10/27	Active
Florida	State of Emergency for 61 counties	9/23	11/22	Active
	Hours of Service Waiver	9/23	11/22	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/23	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 17 counties	9/27	Until Rescinded	Active
Alabama	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/22	Until Rescinded	Active
Georgia	State of Emergency	9/24	10/9	Active
	Governor Major Disaster Declaration – 41 counties	10/2	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 11 counties	10/1	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/24	Until Rescinded	Active
South Carolina	State of Emergency	9/25	10/10	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/25	Until Rescinded	Active
North Carolina	State of Emergency	9/25	10/25	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/24	Until Rescinded	Active
	Major Disaster Declaration	9/25	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 25 counties	9/27	Until Rescinded	Active
Virginia	State of Emergency	9/25	11/9	Active
Kentucky	State of Emergency	9/24	10/8	Active
Tennessee	State of Emergency	9/27	Until Rescinded	Active
	Presidential Declaration of Emergency	9/26	Until Rescinded	Active
West Virginia	State of Preparedness	9/26	Until Rescinded	Active
	State of Emergency for Mercer County	10/1	10/31	Active

Sources: State government & federal government websites