

Hurricane Helene – FINAL

Situation Report #15 | Tuesday, October 15, 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 12:30 PM EDT, October 15, approximately 23,000 customers are without power, down 99% from the region-wide peak of 4.6 million on September 27. Two states still are experiencing power outages from the storm, including outages affecting approximately 13,000 customers in North Carolina (<1%) and 10,000 customers in Georgia (<1%).
- 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 has delayed access to damaged infrastructure.
- 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. The timelines for complete restoration or rebuild in these select regions will take additional time to determine. Utilities are working with state and local officials to coordinate this process.
- Utilities are responding to Hurricane Milton's impacts in Florida 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 12:30 PM EDT 10/15/24

| State | Current Outages | % State Without Power | Peak Storm Outages | % Restored from Peak |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| North Carolina | 13,104 | <1% | 1,004,273 | 99% |
| Georgia | 10,009 | <1% | 1,100,015 | 99% |
| TOTAL | 23,113 | -- | -- | -- |

Note: South Carolina, 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 1:00 PM EDT 10/15/2024 | | | | |
| State/Territory | Details | Effective Dates | | Status |
| | | Start | End | |
| Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia | <u>USDOT & FMCSA Regional Emergency Declaration and Extension of Emergency Declarations</u> | 10/4 | 10/27 | Active |
| Florida | <u>State of Emergency for 61 counties</u> | 9/23 | 11/22 | Active |
| | <u>Hours of Service Waiver</u> | 9/23 | 11/22 | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/23 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 17 counties</u> | 9/27 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| Alabama | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/22 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| Georgia | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/24 | 10/16 | Active |
| | <u>Governor Major Disaster Declaration – 41 counties</u> | 10/2 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 11 counties</u> | 10/1 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/24 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| South Carolina | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/25 | 10/25 | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/25 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| North Carolina | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/25 | 10/25 | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/24 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Major Disaster Declaration</u> | 9/25 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Major Federal Disaster Declaration – 25 counties</u> | 9/27 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| Virginia | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/25 | 11/9 | Active |
| Kentucky | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/24 | 10/8 | Expired |
| Tennessee | <u>State of Emergency</u> | 9/27 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>Presidential Declaration of Emergency</u> | 9/26 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| West Virginia | <u>State of Preparedness</u> | 9/26 | Until Rescinded | Active |
| | <u>State of Emergency for Mercer County</u> | 10/1 | 10/31 | Active |

Sources: State government & federal government websites

