

Hurricane Helene

Situation Report #8 | Friday, October 4, 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 4, approximately 740,000 customers are without power, down nearly 84% from the region-wide peak of 4.6 million on September 27. Five states still are experiencing significant power outages from the storm, including outages affecting approximately 273,000 customers in South Carolina (10% of total state customers), 233,000 customers in North Carolina (5%), and 212,000 customers in Georgia (4%).
- Restorations after Helene are complex due to the extent of damage and ongoing access issues. Utilities have been encountering widespread flooding and debris impeding access to damaged infrastructure, which has delayed their initial access to damaged infrastructure. As floodwaters recede and roads get cleared, additional crews continue to move into the area to help restore power.
- 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 restoration or rebuild in these select regions will take additional time to determine. 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 36 states and the District of Columbia and Canada are responding to power outages in the Southeast and Appalachia.

Hurricane Helene Customer Power Outages

As of 10:00 AM EDT 10/4/24

State	Current Outages	% State Without Power	Peak Storm Outages	% Restored from Peak
South Carolina	273,152	9.5%	1,372,295	80.1%
North Carolina	233,141	4.6%	1,004,273	76.8%
Georgia	212,029	4.4%	1,100,015	80.7%
Virginia	13,137	<1%	243,827	94.6%
Florida	10,103	<1%	1,323,821	99.2%
TOTAL	741,562	--	--	--

Note: 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 9:00 AM EDT 10/3/2024				
State/Territory	Details	Effective Dates		Status
		Start	End	
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

