

Winston-Salem Journal (NC): Page 10

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Thoughts While Shaving For September 27

September 27, 2024 | BladenOnline.com (Elizabethtown, NC) Author: BladenOnline.com | Section: Local News | 232 Words OpenURL Link

Thoughts While Shaving archive

Couldn't resist the opportunity to check on the progress of Hurricane Helene...

Headlines near midnight...

Storm strengthens to Category 4 as it nears landfall in Florida...

Power outages continue to rise in Florida...

2 killed in Georgia tornado as storms from Hurricane Helene move forward...

Tropical storm Isaac in the mid-Atlantic will likely become a hurricane soon...

The Hurricane Center reports water levels are roughly 6 feet higher than the mean at Clearwater Beach ... officials say a storm surge as high as 15-20 feet could swamp Florida's Gulf Coast...

The storm is expected to veer west as it continues over the next hours and days ... eventually as far west as the mountains of North Carolina...

Bladen County forecast for Friday ... Rain with isolated thunderstorms, then partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce tornadoes in the morning. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph ... Gusts as high as 40 mph, decreasing to 30 mph in the afternoon ... Chance of rain ... 100 percent.

Friday night: Partly cloudy in the evening, then becoming mostly clear. Lows around 70. South winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph, diminishing to around 5 mph after midnight.

Saturday and Sunday ... Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s.

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The post Thoughts While Shaving For September 27 appeared first on .

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Local fire-EMS members assist with swift-water rescues in western part of state from Hurricane Helene flooding

September 27, 2024 | Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC) Author: NEWS-TIMES | Section: News Times | 845 Words
OpenURL Link

MOREHEAD CITY — Seven members of the Crystal Coast Water Rescue team with the Morehead City Fire-EMS and two members of the Newport Fire Department deployed Thursday morning to the western part of the state to assist with swift water rescues due to excessive rainfall from Hurricane Helene.

According to the Newport Fire Department and Morehead City Fire Department Facebook pages, the teams are based around Asheville. They joined three members from the City of Washington Fire, Rescue and EMS.

"This is the first deployment of our team," stated the Morehead City Fire-EMS page.

The activation is through NC Emergency Management, and multiple teams statewide have been directed there and are already assisting.

In addition, the Atlantic Beach Fire Department Water Rescue Team deployed four firefighters and a Whaley boat, used for water rescues, Thursday to assist with Life Safety Search and Rescue missions in the western part of the state. Members going are Casey Arthur, Christian Register, Chris Lewis and Cody DeBruhl.

The NC Marine Patrol Swiftwater Rescue Team also deployed personnel to the region.

Hurricane Helene roared ashore as a powerful Category 4 storm in a sparsely populated region of Florida, peeling the siding from buildings, trapping residents in rising floodwaters and knocking out power to millions of customers. At least five people were reported dead.

According to The Associated Press, the storm made landfall late Thursday with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph) in the rural Big Bend area, home to fishing villages and vacation hideaways where Florida's Panhandle and peninsula meet.

First responders were out in boats early Friday to rescue people trapped by flooding in Citrus County, some 120 miles (193 kilometers) south of Perry.

Nearly 4 million homes and businesses were without power Friday morning in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

One person was killed in Florida when a sign fell on their car, and two people were reported killed in a possible tornado in South Georgia as the storm approached. Trees that toppled onto homes were blamed for deaths in Charlotte and Anderson County, S.C.

The hurricane came ashore near the mouth of the Aucilla River on Florida's Gulf Coast. That location was only about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of where Hurricane Idalia hit last year at nearly the same ferocity and caused widespread damage.

Soon after it crossed over land, Helene weakened to a tropical storm, with its maximum sustained winds falling to 70 mph (110 kph). At 5 a.m., the storm was about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Macon, Ga., and about 100 miles southeast of Atlanta, moving north at 30 mph, the National Hurricane Center in Miami reported.

Forecasters expected the system to continue weakening as it moves into Tennessee and Kentucky and drops heavy

rain over the Appalachian Mountains, with the risk of mudslides and flash flooding.

Beyond Florida, up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain had fallen in the North Carolina mountains, with up to 14 inches (36 centimeters) more possible before the deluge ends, setting the stage for flooding that forecasters warned could be worse than anything seen in the past century.

For Atlanta, Helene could be the worst strike on a major Southern inland city in 35 years, said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

Helene is the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season this year because of recordwarm ocean temperatures.

President Biden authorized FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe.

Federal funding is available to state, tribal and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures including direct federal assistance for Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Federal funding is also available for emergency protective measures limited to direct federal assistance and reimbursement for mass care including evacuation and shelter support for Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Watauga and Wilkes counties.

Finally, federal funding is also available for emergency protective measures limited to direct federal assistance for Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gates, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson and Yadkin counties.

E. Craig Levy, Sr. has been named the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area.

NC Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for North Carolina as well.

Contact Cheryl Burke at 252-726-7081, ext. 255; email Cheryl@thenewstimes.com; or follow on Twitter @cherylccnt.

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More than 359 roads closed in Western NC as Hurricane Helene continues to bring heavy rain and life-threatening flooding

September 27, 2024 | Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News Times | 355 Words
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RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper and state leaders continued to urge North Carolina residents Friday afternoon to monitor dangerous conditions from Hurricane Helene, stay off roads in the western part of the state except in cases of emergency and listen to local officials.

Conditions across the foothills and mountains continued to deteriorate overnight and during the morning. Hurricane Helene has brought significant rainfall, strong winds, damaging debris flows and riverine flooding. Western North Carolina has received heavy rain that has caused widespread power outages and life-threatening flash flooding across the mountains. More than a foot of rain has fallen across much of western North Carolina with the highest reported total of 29.5 inches in Busick Raws, in Yancey County.

Since Gov. Cooper declared a State of Emergency on Wednesday there are continuing efforts to mobilize critical state resources across the state. The State Emergency Response Team has deployed equipment, personnel and resources to support impacted communities, including North Carolina Swift Water Rescue Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams, as well as more than 358 North Carolina National Guard soldiers.

More than 359 North Carolina roads have been reported closed in Western North Carolina and the NC Department of Transportation is working to respond to closures and damage.

More than 30 North Carolina Swift Water Teams along with teams from seven additional states are currently engaged in response and have reported more than 100 rescues so far. There are increasing numbers of flash flood emergencies across the mountains with significant flooding occurring in many areas. Carteret County fire departments and teams are among those assisting.

Currently 18 shelters have opened in impacted counties.

The NC Department of Transportation is advising residents in Western North Carolina to shelter in place. All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed. Unless you are seeking higher ground, motorists should not travel in this area. People should not attempt to drive through standing water and must respect barricades and road closure signs.

North Carolina residents are advised to stay aware and to take the actions directed by local officials to protect lives

For more information, visit ReadyNC.gov, which features traffic, power outage and shelter information.

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Staff Writer, 'More than 359 roads closed in Western NC as Hurricane Helene continues to bring heavy rain and life-threatening flooding', *Carteret County News-Times, The*(online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFCA2ED1F0E50>



CCEC crews head to western Carolina to restore outages from Hurricane Helene

September 27, 2024 | Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: News Times | 222 Words
OpenURL Link

NEWPORT — Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) is sent crews Friday morning to assist Rutherford EMC in restoring power lost during Hurricane Helene.

Helene continues to bring heavy rainfall and strong winds to areas in central and western North Carolina after hitting the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. As of 10 a.m. Friday, nearly 200,000 electric cooperative members were without power in central and western North Carolina.

Rutherford EMC serves over 67,000 members and owns and maintains approximately 7,000 miles of line in its 10-county service area in Western North Carolina.

Answering the mutual aid call from CCEC are staff engineer Rex LaRowe, line supervisor Steve Smith, and linemen Earl Jones, Dowle Smith, Justin Williford, Greyson Millis, T.J. Ross, Hayden Crump, Cameron England, Kody Culpepper and Gary Mann.

"Our crews are all too familiar in restoring power after hurricanes and tropical storms, but these guys are eager to help out a sister co-op," said Will Pittman, CCEC vice-president of operations. "We've had crews from North Carolina and surrounding states come to our aid during hurricanes, and it feels good to reciprocate."

Power restoration teams from cooperatives in other less-affected parts of the state are joining local crews and working together until service is restored to all co-op members. Real-time outage information from electric cooperatives across the state is available on a Statewide Outage Map.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'CCEC crews head to western Carolina to restore outages from Hurricane Helene', *Carteret County News-Times, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFCA2E92B5268>



More than 359 roads closed in Western NC as Hurricane Helene drops heavy rain and lifethreatening flooding

September 27, 2024 | Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Meteorology | 351 Words
OpenURL Link

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper and state leaders urged North Carolina residents to monitor dangerous conditions from Hurricane Helene, stay off roads in the western part of the state except in cases of emergency and listen to local officials.

Conditions across the foothills and mountains continued to deteriorate overnight and during the morning. Hurricane Helene has brought significant rainfall, strong winds, damaging debris flows and riverine flooding. Western North Carolina has received heavy rain that has caused widespread power outages and life-threatening flash flooding across the mountains. More than a foot of rain has fallen across much of western North Carolina with the highest reported total of 29.5 inches in Busick Raws, in Yancey County.

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Currently 18 shelters have opened in impacted counties.

The NC Department of Transportation is advising residents in Western North Carolina to shelter in place. All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed. Unless you are seeking higher ground, motorists should not travel in this area. People should not attempt to drive through standing water and must respect barricades and road closure signs.

North Carolina residents are advised to stay aware and to take the actions directed by local officials to protect lives

For more information, visit ReadyNC.gov, which features traffic, power outage and shelter information.

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Helene strengthens to Category 2 ahead of Florida landfall

September 27, 2024 \mid Charlotte Observer, The (NC)

Section: News | 466 Words

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Hurricane Helene continued its trek toward the Gulf coast of Florida early Thursday, as it strengthened to a Category 2 storm with forecasters warning that it could strengthen to a Category 4 behemoth before making landfall Thursday night in the Big Bend region.

In its 7 a.m. CDT update, the National Hurricane Center said Helene was located 320 miles Southwest of Tampa, Fla., and 356 miles south of Apalachicola, Fla., carrying maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. It was traveling north-northeast at 12 mph.

Such a powerful storm will likely bring widespread destruction, and forecasters were warning early Thursday that "preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion."

Hurricane-force winds extended outward as far as 35 miles from the center of the storm, while tropical-storm-force winds could be felt as far as 345 miles away, forecasters said.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Anclote River to Mexico Beach, and a hurricane watch was in effect for Entelwood to Anclote River, including Tampa Bay.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for the Florida Keys, including the Dry Tortugas; Flamingo to Anclote River, including Tampa Bay; west of Mexico Beach to the Okaloosa/Walton County Line; Lake Okechobee and the Cuban provinces of Artemisa, Pinar del Rio and the Isle of Youth.

Mexico Beach eastward and southward to Flamingo, Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor were also under a storm surge warning.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis issued a state of emergency for 61 of Florida's 67 counties ahead of the storm's landfall.

"Florida is preparing for widespread impacts from Hurricane Helene," he said.

The storm was expected to be "a large major hurricane when it reaches the Big Bend coast of Florida," the NHC said.

"Helene will move across the eastern Gulf of Mexico tonight and Thursday and cross the Florida Big Bend coast Thursday evening," the NHC forecasters said. "After landfall, Helene is expected to turn northwestward and slow down over the Tennessee Valley on Friday and Saturday."

Forecasters warned of potentially catastrophic hurricane-force winds, a life-threatening storm surge, and deadly flash and urban flooding.

Normally dry areas near the coast were expected to flood due to the combination of tides and the deadly storm surge, which from Carrabelle to the Suwannee River could reach as high as 20 feet.

The storm will bring heavy rainfall amounts to the Tennessee Valley on Friday and Saturday with strong, damaging winds - especially in gusts - that will penetrate well inland over the southeastern United States, including over higher terrain in the southern Appalachian mountains.

Helene should weaken after landfall on the Gulf Coast, forecasters said, adding that the storm's fast forward speed is what will prove to be the most damaging to property and life.

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'Helene strengthens to Category 2 ahead of Florida landfall', *Charlotte Observer, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 16A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD70284B4D198



North Carolina braces for Hurricane Helene's wrath

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The (NC) Author: Joe Marusak; Staff Writer | Section: News | 549 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene showers are hitting Charlotte, and the North Carolina mountains are braced for up to 20" of rain and what the National Weather Service has labeled potentially "catastrophic flooding."

Charlotte Douglas International Airport was under a Helene-spawned tornado warning yesterday morning, along with Belmont and Mount Holly in Gaston County. Radar indicated a tornado, NWS meteorologists said, but there were no confirmed reports.

Gusts up to 50 mph are expected in Charlotte early Friday, meteorologists said. The storm is predicted to dump 2" to 3" of rain on Charlotte, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The Charlotte area, Upstate South Carolina and the N.C. foothills could see "widespread downed trees, and numerous power outages (are) likely," the NWS office in Greer, South Carolina, said on social media.

Tornadoes threatened the region through Friday morning, NWS forecasters said.

Nearly 8,000 Duke Energy customers were without power in the North Carolina mountains on Thursday morning, according to the company outage map. Most were in the Asheville and Hendersonville areas, and 1,000 were in Franklin.

In the Carolinas' mountains, "catastrophic flash-flooding is expected along numerous streams, with potentially historic flooding near the Blue Ridge Escarpment," the NWS said on X, the former Twitter.

"Landslides/debris flows expected through at least Friday," the NWS said.

Thursday morning, Helene became a category 2 hurricane, "with significant additional strengthening expected before landfall in Florida," according to a National Hurricane Center bulletin.

A State of Emergency

Gov. Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, activating the National Guard and deploying swiftwater teams in advance of Helene.

"Helene threatens heavy rain, flash flooding, landslides, and damaging winds to the mountains and Piedmont areas of our state," Cooper said in a statement. "Now is the time for North Carolinians to prepare, make sure emergency kits are up-to-date and pay attention to the weather alerts in your area."

Charlotte officials said crews are preparing for heavy rain and strong gusts knocking down trees and limbs.

Call 911 immediately if a tree or part of a tree has fallen and blocks a road, officials said.

Duke Energy called in power line and tree crews from other states. Wind damage and flooding could delay restoring power, but its crews will do so "as quickly and safely as possible," according to a company statement Thursday morning.

Charlotte Motor Speedway opened its campgrounds Wednesday for Helene evacuees from across the Southeast.

Evacuees should check in at the Camping World Racing Resort office at 6600 Bruton Smith Blvd. in Concord.

Caldwell County also declared a state of emergency. Haywood County in the mountains urged residents to prepare for possible evacuation due to flooding from Helene.

School closures

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools officials canceled in-person classes.

The district will move to remote learning on Friday, with classes to be completed asynchronously, meaning there won't be any face-to-face instruction, according to a weather alert posted on the CMS website.

- * Fort Mill Schools: All schools and district facilities will be closed on Friday. The district will transition to e-learning for the day.
- * Catawba County Schools: Closed for students on Friday. It will be an optional workday for all teachers, replacing the previously scheduled elementary/middle school workday.

Observer staff writer Evan Moore contributed to this story.

Joe Marusak: 704-358-5067, @jmarusak

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As Hurricane Helene moves north, Charlotte airport passengers should brace for delays

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The (NC) Author: Chase Jordan; Staff Writer | Section: News | 352 Words Page: 6A

OpenURL Link

With Hurricane Helene turning into a major hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, it may continue to spoil passengers' travel plans at Charlotte's busy airport.

Airlines at Charlotte Douglas International Airport could see problems as Helene makes its way toward the area.

At 10 a.m. Thursday, the airport was under a Helene-spawned tornado warning, along with Belmont and Mount Holly in Gaston County. Radar indicated a tornado, NWS meteorologists said, it's still unconfirmed.

Also on Thursday, there were 54 delays and 61 cancellations. That's a combined 471 flight disruptions over less than two days.

On Wednesday, there were 348 flights delayed and eight were canceled at CLT, according to FlightAware, an online website providing real-time information.

Forecasters from the National Weather Service said Hurricane Helene - which has escalated to a Category 2 level storm - could bring heavy rains to the Charlotte area.

It's expected to arrive in the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia Thursday night and Friday.

Charlotte Douglas is advising passengers to check with the airlines regarding the status of their flight before coming to the airport.

What to do about flight cancellations

American Airlines, which accounts for about 87% of all flights out of CLT, issued travel alerts on Wednesday for airports in the Southeast, with Charlotte Douglas among them.

The airline said passengers may rebook trips and will not be charged for change fees. Customers can reschedule their travel on aa.com or by calling 800-433-7300.

"American will continue tracking this system with our customers' and team members' safety top of mind," an airline spokesperson said.

Weather trackers are expecting Helene to cause life-threatening storm surge and hurricane-force winds for Florida's panhandle and western coasts, according to the National Weather Service. .

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency on Wednesday.

Along with heavy rain, Cooper said threats include flash flooding, landslides and damaging winds to the mountains and Piedmont area of the state.

"Now is the time for North Carolinians to prepare, make sure emergency kits are up-to-date and pay attention to the weather alerts in your area," Cooper said in a news release.

Chase Jordan: @ChaseJordanTCO

• Citation (aglc Style)

Chase Jordan, Staff Writer, 'As Hurricane Helene moves north, Charlotte airport passengers should brace for delays', *Charlotte Observer, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 6A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
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Mets-Braves postponed; Monday may decide - NL wild-card race

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The (NC)

Section: Sports | 264 Words

Page: 7B OpenURL Link

The games Wednesday and Thursday between the host Atlanta Braves and New York Mets were postponed by MLB due to Hurricane Helene approaching the southeastern United States, meaning the newly scheduled Monday doubleheader in Atlanta may determine all three National League wild-card spots.

Entering Wednesday, with the season series tied at 5-5, the Mets (87-70) held a one-game lead over the Braves (86-71) for the second NL wild card and a half-game lead over the Arizona Diamondbacks (87-71), who were set to host the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night.

Monday's traditional doubleheader between the Mets and Braves is scheduled to begin at 1:10 p.m. local time, with the second game slated to start 40 minutes after the opener ends.

MLB's four wild-card series are scheduled to begin next Tuesday.

The Mets open a three-game series with the NL Central champion Milwaukee Brewers on Friday, while the Braves host the American League wild-card-contending Kansas City Royals in a three-game set starting on Friday.

The Diamondbacks host a three-game series with the San Diego Padres, who already clinched an NL wild-card spot, starting on Friday to conclude the regular season.

As the hurricane approaches Florida's Gulf Coast, heavy rain is in the forecast for Atlanta on Wednesday and Thursday. Helene is expected to make landfall in Florida on Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane, with winds over 110 mph. Georgia governor Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency on Tuesday.

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'Mets-Braves postponed; Monday may decide NL wild-card race', *Charlotte Observer, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 7B https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD7028E8ED268



Short-term funding patch ready for Biden's signature

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The (NC) Author: Aidan Quigley; CQ-Roll Call | Section: News | 701 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

WASHINGTON The Senate on Wednesday cleared a 12-week spending bill that would kick this year's spending tussle until after the November elections.

The 78-18 vote means the bill is now on its way to President Joe Biden's desk well ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline to prevent a partial government shutdown.

The rapid-fire votes in both chambers Wednesday - an unusual occurrence - allowed lawmakers to head home to campaign. They'll have roughly five weeks after the elections to secure a full-year fiscal 2025 spending deal before the new Dec. 20 deadline.

Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray, during a very brief floor debate, called the bill a "straight-forward, bipartisan compromise" to temporarily fund the government. She said lawmakers should start negotiating final spending bills.

"It's time for Democrats and Republicans to negotiate those bills together, instead of House Republicans just following the loudest voices on the far right," Murray, D-Wash., said.

During the brief debate, Senate Appropriations ranking member Susan Collins said a shutdown would be disastrous for the Pentagon and other federal programs. "Government shutdowns are inherently a failure to govern effectively," she said, urging her colleagues on both sides to support it.

The House earlier on Wednesday had voted 341-82 to pass the measure under suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. There were zero defections on the Democratic side, while Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., comfortably secured the support of a majority of the majority of his conference.

With lawmakers eager to get back home and Hurricane Helene set to make landfall in Florida, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate GOP leaders on Tuesday night locked in a time agreement to vote on the bill Wednesday after no more than two hours of debate, with no amendments.

"Americans can breathe easy that because both sides have chosen bipartisanship. Congress is getting the job done," Schumer said earlier Wednesday. "We will keep the government open. We will prevent vital government services from needlessly coming to a halt."

The bill is mostly just a clean extension of current spending levels to Dec. 20, though many GOP conservatives believe those existing spending levels are already too high.

Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, an influential House Freedom Caucus member, pointed out lawmakers' consistent inability to pass individual spending bills to fund the government on time, while continually adding more debt to the national credit card.

"What are we doing?" Roy said during the House debate. "It's absurd. And the American people look at us and say, what on earth is wrong in Washington?"

Conservatives also wanted tough voter ID measures attached to the bill, but last week enough Republicans refused to vote for a six-month stopgap bill that included the proof-of-citizenship legislation that it was defeated on the

floor. That left Johnson with few options but to cut a bipartisan deal.

Speaking to reporters after the House vote, Johnson blamed the Senate for not passing appropriations bills and reaching no agreement on topline spending.

"So we've had no choice, but I want to assure everyone, and I've said this multiple times this week, we are not going to return to a Christmas omnibus spending tradition, and that's significant," Johnson said. "We worked very hard to break that tradition."

House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole during a floor debate applauded Johnson's efforts, saying he made the best of a difficult hand.

"Like most, my preference would be to pass full-year appropriations bills through regular order, but we are out of time," Cole, R-Okla., said during the debate. "We cannot afford a shutdown, which would be greatly damaging to our national security, to critical government programs, and to the American people."

The Senate's unusually quick action allows members to hit the campaign trail for an extended October recess. The December end date will allow lawmakers to see where the electoral chips fall before deciding whether they want to attempt to wrap up the fiscal 2025 spending bills this year.

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Hurricane Helene Hits Charlotte, North Carolina

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Video (NC)

Section: News | 18 Words

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Helene downpours could lead to landslides in western NC. What to know + how to stay safe

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Evan Moore, The Charlotte Observer | Section: weather_news | 623 Words OpenURL Link

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch Friday morning as Hurricane Helene rips through North Carolina, which could lead to landslides in the western part of the state.

The storm system is expected to bring up to six inches of rain to the mountains and wind gusts of up to 70 miles per hour to the area Friday, the alert says.

More rain is possible in some areas, which could heighten the risk of landslides, according to the NWS.

"Typically, when we have a total rainfall in excess of five inches, that's when we think a few landslides are likely to occur," Jake Wimberly, a forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Greer, previously told the Observer, adding that landslides are more common in mountainous areas.

If you're in an area susceptible to landslides, here's what you need to know.

003.JPGA landslide spills into the East Fork Pigeon River in Cruso Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 after remnants from Tropical Storm Fred caused flooding in parts of Western North Carolina Tuesday. Five people are missing and at least four people were found dead.

What is a landslide?

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, "a landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope."

Landslides can be triggered by many things, including excess rainfall, and are likely to occur on or at the base of slopes, the USGS says.

What are the warning signs of a landslide?

According to the USGS, landslide warning signs include:

Springs, seeps, or saturated ground in areas that have not typically been wet before. New cracks or unusual bulges in the ground, street pavements or sidewalks. Soil moving away from foundations. Tilting or cracking of concrete floors and foundations. Broken water lines and other underground utilities. Leaning telephone poles, trees, retaining walls or fences. Offset fence lines. Sunken or down-dropped road beds. Sudden decrease in creek water levels though rain is still falling or just recently stopped. A faint rumbling sound that increases in volume is noticeable as the landslide nears.

Watch Helene causing flooding in Boone, NCA livecam feed from Boone, NC show heavy rains from Helene are causing flooding on King Street as remnants of the once hurricane pass through the western part of the state on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

What to do during a landslide

If you get stuck in the path of a landslide, you should move uphill as quickly as possible, according to ready.gov, a

site run by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

You should also avoid river valleys and low-lying areas during a landslide, the site recommends.

"If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow or water that changes from clear to muddy," ready.gov says. "These can be signs that a landslide is coming."

How to avoid landslides

You can avoid landslides by not building near steep slopes, close to mountain edges, near drainage ways, or natural erosion valleys, the USGS says.

You can also contact local officials or state geological surveys and ask for information about potential landslide hazards in your area, according to the USGS.

The USGS also recommends learning about the emergency-response and evacuation plans for your area, and developing your own emergency plan for your family.

How to protect your property from landslides

Here are some ways you can prepare your home for landslides, according to the USGS:

Contact your gas company and have flexible pipe fittings installed to avoid gas or water leaks, as flexible fittings are more resistant to breakage. Plant ground cover on slopes and build retaining walls. Build channels or deflection walls to direct the flow around buildings in mudflow areas, but pay attention to where you install them. If you build walls to divert debris flow and the flow lands on a neighbor's property, you may be liable for damages.

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

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Evan Moore, The Charlotte Observer, 'Helene downpours could lead to landslides in western NC. What to know + how to stay safe', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDB65A5FFC9558>



See Hurricane Helene storm damage across North Carolina as flooding hits western NC

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: The Pham, The Charlotte Observer Section: local 632 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene moved across the Carolinas Friday, leaving millions of customers without power, flooding streets and knocking trees on to homes.

These images capture some of the harm done.

Helena 001.jpgMcKinley Moore inspects damage in his home on Lawn Meadow Drive in Charlotte after a tree fell, striking the roof over his bedroom.

hurricane helene 020.JPEGRock Hill and Charlotte firefighters worked early Friday morning to pull a couple from a home on Poinsett Drive in Rock Hill that was crushed by a large tree.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-15.JPGA Waynesville firefighter searches a car that was pinned by debris under a bridge on Richland Creek in Waynesville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-28.JPGWaynesville firefighters search a car that was pinned by debris under a bridge on Richland Creek in Waynesville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-09.JPGWater from the Tuckasegee River floods the River and Rails RV Park in Whittier on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene moves through North Carolina.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-07.JPGWater from the Tuckasegee River flooded the River and Rails RV Park in Whittier on Friday.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-21.JPGFoodwaters overrun a road in Canton on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

RAL_TSHELENE-NE-092724-RTW_1.JPGMotorist traverse flooded Foushee Street after heavy rain from Tropical Storm Helene flooded the area adjacent to Ellerbe Creek on Friday, September 27, 2024 in Durham, N.C.

IMG_1829.jpgA vehicle was crushed by a falling tree in the Asheville and Arden area of western North Carolina as Helene struck on Friday.

hurricane helene 018.JPEGA downed tree on Tuckaseegee Road In Charlotte Friday morning.

RAL_092724-ROCKYMOUNT-TORNADO-KLM-02.JPGPeople walk through a parking lot off of North Wesleyan Boulevard where buildings sustained damage following a tornado in Rocky Mount, N.C. on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

RAL_092724-ROCKYMOUNT-TORNADO-KLM-03.JPGOfficials work outside of Hing Ta Restaurant after the building sustained damage during a tornado in Rocky Mount, N.C. on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

RAL_092724-ROCKYMOUNT-TORNADO-KLM-04.JPGBuilding damage is visible off of North Wesleyan Boulevard following a tornado in Rocky Mount, N.C. on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-23.JPGPart of a structure sits in floodwaters on a road in Canton on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-20.JPGFlooding on the French Broad River in the River Arts District in Asheville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

kimball_helene1_92724.jpgSouth Carolina Dept. of Transportation workers remove a large tree that fell along Celanese Road Friday in Rock Hill.

hurricane helene 020.JPGThis fallen tree was visible on Anderson Street in Charlotte Friday morning.

kimball_helene3_92724.jpg7-year-old Harlan Culberson walks along a flooded path beside the Catawba River Friday as the river overflowed its banks.

GYfUNGXXMAAjW3r.jpgFlood waters rage on US 74 looking down from the I-40 bridge near Asheville, N.C. as Helene dumped heavy rain on the area Friday.

hurricane helene 016.JPEGA downed tree blocks Eastway Drive Friday morning Sept. 27, 2024 in Charlotte as Hurricane Helene moved across NC

hurricane helene 006.JPEGDowned tree blocks Mt. Holly Rd in Charlotte on Friday morning.

hurricane helene 015.JPEGResidents load a generator on a ATV by Riverside Drive in Charlotte as water continued to rise Friday morning.

hurricane helene 010.JPEGResidents in Charlotte's Riverside Drive area were evacuated as water continued to rise Friday morning.

hurricane helene 013.JPEGResidents at Riverside Drive areas are being evacuated as water continues to rise Friday morning, Sept. 27, 2024.

hurricane helene 011.JPEGResidents at Charlotte's Riverside Drive area were evacuated Friday morning.

hurricane helene 003.JPEGArrowood Mobile Home Park in Charlotte's Steele Creek flooded Friday morning.

hurricane helene 017.JPGOne person was killed when a tree fell on this home early Friday morning Sept. 27, 2024 as Hurricane Helene moved across N.C

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• Citation (aglc Style)

The Pham, The Charlotte Observer, 'See Hurricane Helene storm damage across North Carolina as flooding hits western NC', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDB924F9D1A6A8>



Tree that killed I when Helene hit Charlotte should've been cut down already, neighbor says

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer | Section: local | 548 Words OpenURL Link

A person died inside a home in northwest Charlotte's historic Hoskins neighborhood when a tree busted through the roof as Tropical Storm Helene pushed through North Carolina — the fifth state it passed through.

There was a crashing bang, silence, then sirens.

According to the Charlotte Fire Department, another adult was trapped with the person who died. That person was rescued, and two children inside weren't harmed.

My dad's suffocating, the victim's adult son told a neighbor at about 5 a.m. Friday. He'd just come out of the Brookway Drive home that now had a gaping hole in its side.

That neighbor described the large-trunked tree as two trees joined at the base. Months before Hurricane Helene started barreling toward the United States, the other half of that tree had crashed onto another house. It's had a blue tarp on its roof and a hole in its side ever since.

The tree probably should've been chopped down then, the neighbor said.

The neighbor, a purple-shirted woman who has lived two doors down from the affected home since the 1970s, didn't want to give her name. She'd already spoken to television news, and too many people were calling to check on her, she said.

Tornado with 90 mph winds hit popular NC mountain tourist town before Helene, NWS says

As she spoke with The Charlotte Observer, two people in a green Kia Soul slowed in front of her brick home. The lawn was decorated with 20 potted plants, an angel bird bath, yellow bird houses and a bench held up by two stone squirrels.

"I heard the news, I just had to come check on you," the passenger said.

"Oh, I'm all good, honey. It's the house over there we should be worried about," the neighbor replied.

The home, a block away from a Baptist church and a tobacco shop sharing borders with railroad tracks, still had branches inside, downed powerlines on the lawn and a sign from the fire department in the window:

"This building has been deemed unsafe."

The family who lived inside can't come back, according to the fire department. "Occupancy is prohibited."

A few houses down, another massive, uprooted tree sprawled its branches across a yard. It was feet away from knocking into the home's vinyl siding. A few top-level leaves touched its brick foundation.

Helene's damage, death toll

At least 22 people have died in Tropical Storm Helene, which made landfall in northern Florida as a category 4

hurricane, according to NBC News. Floods surged through western North Carolina as the storms approached Thursday and moved through the state Friday.

Near Charlotte, slippery car crashes killed a four-year-old girl in Catawba County and a 58-year-old man in Gastonia.

The National Weather Service warned that Helene will "be one of the most significant weather events to happen in the western portions of the area in the modern era," and it forecast flooding comparable to Asheville's floods of 1916.

While technology and infrastructure have made it easier to tell people when to get out of flood-prone areas and where to go, the damage these storms bring doesn't dwindle.

Helene, similar to the weather events in 1916, interacted with another low-pressure system that settled over western North Carolina. That helped catapult Helene's bands to the area, which started seeing rain days before Friday.

"We cannot stress the significance of this event enough," NWS said in a release.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer, 'Tree that killed 1 when Helene hit Charlotte should've been cut down already, neighbor says', Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDBF1CCB693BF0>



Flooding, evacuations after Helene plows Western NC; officials say stay off roads

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Ryan Oehrli, The Charlotte Observer | Section: weather_news | 997 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene plowed through the N.C. mountains Friday, shutting the region down and leaving thousands without power, with some counties urging evacuations.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood emergency for Rutherford County, east of Asheville, saying around 11 a.m. that a failure at the Lake Lure Dam was imminent and people below the dam should move to higher ground.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-29.JPGWaynesville firefighters search a car that was pinned by debris under a bridge on Richland Creek in Waynesville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

By late Friday afternoon, water had crested the dam, but it was continuing to hold despite the structural damage, according to Josh Kastrinsky, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality.

More than a million Duke Energy customers in North Carolina were without power Friday morning, according to an outage map.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-23.JPGPart of a structure sits in floodwaters on a road in Canton on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Buncombe County issued a mandatory evacuation order for people along the Swannanoa River from the North Fork Reservoir to Biltmore Village.

Video: Helene brings flooding to mountain areas of western North CarolinaHeavy rains from Helene are causing creeks to overflow, flooding mountain areas of western NC, Friday, Sept. 27, 2024.

Waters have gone over the spillway, the county said.

"Do not delay — take action to protect your loved ones," said County Manager Avril Pinder. "We understand that evacuation can be challenging, but the safety of our residents is our top priority. We urge everyone in the affected areas to take this order seriously and evacuate as soon as possible."

Emergency personnel can help with evacuation, she added.

weaverville.jpgA downed tree blocks the road in front of a house north of Asheville.

Two hours after that order, the county issued another for people living from Balsam Road to Highway 70, after a lake at Camp Ridgecrest for Girls flooded.

Other parts of the county have been encouraged to evacuate.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-21.JPGFoodwaters overrun a road in Canton on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

In Weaverville, a small town just north of Asheville, workers were preparing to cut trees down on blocked roads out of town.

Other roads were blocked by downed power lines.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-09.JPGWater from the Tuckasegee River floods the River and Rails RV Park in Whittier on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene moves through North Carolina.

Dalton Lamb and Jordyn Wentworth were trying to find a way to Asheville after a creek flooded their yard.

It was a steady stream of brown water, and it had grown before they tried to go to Asheville again, they said.

"Pretty much every road back to an interstate or Asheville is blocked," said Lamb. The county is under a flash flood warning. The county's sheriff's office has shared a map showing where flood plains are.

Eventually, they found their way there.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-28.JPGWaynesville firefighters search a car that was pinned by debris under a bridge on Richland Creek in Waynesville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Downtown Asheville closed for business

In downtown Asheville around 2 p.m., a large group of people had gone into The Restoration, a hotel, bar and restaurant that still had power.

"It's been total chaos," said Maria Pappas, one of the workers there. She wasn't aware of any other businesses that were open and serving customers in downtown Asheville.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-20.JPGFlooding on the French Broad River in the River Arts District in Asheville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

They had to close the kitchen because they were too short-staffed, and they were gauging whether they could still host weddings over the weekend. After another wedding venue got flooded, a couple called Friday to see if they could have theirs at The Restoration, Pappas said.

Most or all of the gas stations around Asheville appeared to be closed on Friday.

USATSI_24335223.jpgThe French Broad River reached over 16 feet by 11 am on Sept. 27, flooding most of the River Arts District, seen here from the Haywood Road bridge.

The Haywood County Sheriff's Office said the Lake Junaluska dam has not collapsed. It's functioning as designed, and is being monitored "to ensure continued safety and proper operation," the sheriff's office said in a Facebook post around 11:30 a.m.

"All roads in Western NC should be considered closed," the North Carolina Department of Transportation said.

The department urged people in the area to not travel unless there's an emergency, to not drive through standing water and to "respect barricades and road closures."

Interstates 26 and 40 were closed in both directions near Asheville, because of flooding and mudslides. I-40 also was closed near the Tennessee state line, NCDOT officials said. Crews anticipated reopening both roads by 5 p.m.

Saturday.

Numerous other roads, highways and bridges also appeared to be flooded or washed out because of the storm, officials said.

Interstate 40 was closed between Cocke County, Tennessee, and Western North Carolina after flooding caused a mudslide and washed away a portion of the interstate Friday, WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee, reported.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-07.JPGWater from the Tuckasegee River floods the River and Rails RV Park in Whittier on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, as the remnants of Hurricane Helene move through North Carolina.

RAL_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-10.JPGWater from the Tuckasegee River floods the River and Rails RV Park in Whittier on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, as the remnants of Hurricane Helene move through North Carolina.

Weaverville home Water flows past a home in Weaverville, north of Asheville, in the morning on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, after Helene struck.

Weaverville roadA tree blocked passage of a road near Weaverville, north of Asheville, on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, after Helene struck.

This is a developing story.

Staff writer Tammy Grubb of The News & Observer contributed to this story.

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Duke Energy says it will move Helene rainwater from NC to SC, causing shoreline flooding

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer | Section: weather_news | 343 Words OpenURL Link

Flooding around Charlotte was already bad as Tropical Storm Helene moved through. It will increase as Duke Energy moves water from Lake Norman through Mountain Island Lake and into Lake Wylie.

Duke Energy "needs to move large amounts of rainwater through the Catawba River System," Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management said Friday afternoon.

Mountain Island Lake saw rising water levels and flooding Friday evening when the floodgates at Cowan's Ford Dam opened around 7 p.m., according to the county. Lake Wylie in South Carolina and the Catawba River will be hit next. The county issued an overnight advisory at 7:45 p.m. Friday warning floodwaters will continue to rise, even without rain, as water moves from Lake Norman to Lake Wylie.

Duke Energy started moving water through rivers and lakes as soon as heavy rain was forecast, said communications manager Logan Stewart. Helene, though, exceeded those forecasts. Despite pre-storm attempts to make room for rainfall, the lakes got too full. The excess water has to go somewhere, Stewart said.

It has to go downstream.

The county said "all residents near the shoreline along the lakes and rivers" should take caution. A shelter for displaced residents was set up at Tuckaseegee Recreation Center at 4820 Tuckaseegee Road. It remains a shelter through Sunday evening.

hurricane helene 011.JPEGResidents at Riverside Drive areas are being evacuated as water continues to rise Friday morning, Sept. 27, 2024.

Some parts of the Catawba River were expected to rise higher than ever before because of Helene, The Herald reported.

Duke Energy manages Lake Norman and Lake Wylie along the river for power production. In a public alert Thursday, the company said Lake James, which sits northwest of Lake Norman, could rise 10 feet above its full pond level by Friday afternoon. By Friday morning, it was five feet above its normal level.

The National Weather Service had warned that Helene would "be one of the most significant weather events to happen in the western portions of the area in the modern era," and it forecast flooding comparable to Asheville's floods of 1916, where 80 people died and houses floated downriver.

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Julia Coin, The Charlotte Observer, 'Duke Energy says it will move Helene rainwater from NC to SC, causing shoreline flooding', Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDD3F5DC8E64F0>



Tornado with 90 mph winds hit popular NC mountain tourist town before Helene, NWS says

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer | Section: weather_news | 113 Words OpenURL Link

A tornado packing 90 mph winds hit the N.C. mountain tourist town of Blowing Rock ahead of Hurricane Helene, a National Weather Service team confirmed Thursday.

A separate severe weather system spawned the EF-1 tornado that uprooted and snapped trees for just over a halfmile before dissipating, investigators said.

No injuries were reported, according to a report by the team from the NWS office in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The tornado touched down at 6:38 p.m. Wednesday near the intersection of Birch Drive and Hill Street and raced northeast before lifting near Chetola Lake Drive, the team found.

A few tents near Bass Lake Drive and Chetola Lake Drive also were blown down, according to the NWS report.

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Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer, 'Tornado with 90 mph winds hit popular NC mountain tourist town before Helene, NWS says', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDB3769B60E558>



Hurricane Helene could rival 1916 NC flood, forecasters warn. Here's what happened then.

September 27, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Patrick Wilson, The Charlotte Observer Section: weather_news 368 Words OpenURL Link

Two tropical storms converged in the mountains of North Carolina in July 1916 and brought such rapid flooding that people in Asheville had to climb trees and hang on as water rushed past.

"Never before had so much rain fallen anywhere in the United States in a 24-hour period, the National Weather Bureau reported," according to an article on the city of Asheville's website.

The National Weather Service said Thursday that Hurricane Helene will be "one of the most significant weather events to happen in the western portions of the area in the modern era. Record flooding is forecasted and has been compared to the floods of 1916 in the Asheville area."

What happened back then?

One hundred years after the 1916 flood, Charlotte Observer journalists chronicled the flood and events nine miles west of Charlotte, when a railway trestle collapsed in Belmont and sent 19 men into the Catawba River. Ten died.

F1916-27-PEOPLE GATHERED ATCrowds gather at the Catawba River where the Southern Railway trestle collapsed near Belmont.

Two men in a boat set out to rescue mill workers who had been hanging on all night to a poplar tree that protruded from the river. They got one aboard, but the boat capsized, leaving the those two rescuers trapped along with the others.

Peter Monroe Stowe, 48, and Alphonse Leroy Ross, 43, then came along to help as onlookers on the banks cheered and pointed to the survivors. In 2016, the Observer reported on the result of that rescue attempt.

The Great Flood of 1916 killed dozens of people and caused \$550 million in damages in 2016 dollars, the Observer reported in its anniversary series.

frenchbroadNOAAThe French Broad River in Asheville, July 1916.

"Streams and rivers, already full from previous rains, surged across low ground with startling speed in mid-July of 1916," the series reported. "Dead horses and chickens, hogsheads of tobacco and bales of cottons, moonshine stills and whole houses sailed down the Catawba, Yadkin and French Broad rivers."

Read more facts here about the 1916 flood.

NC Great Flood of 1916 brought a day of tragedy and heroes as rivers rose

Heroes of NC's Great Flood of 1916: A tale of 2 men and their daring rescue

8 things to know about North Carolina's Great Flood of 1916

• Citation (aglc Style)

Patrick Wilson, The Charlotte Observer, 'Hurricane Helene could rival 1916 NC flood, forecasters warn. Here's what happened then.', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD9FBF1E809030



Helene drowns southeastern United States

September 27, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Kim Jarrett | The Center Square | Section: State | 396 Words OpenURL Link

(The Center Square) - At least 26 people across four states have died as a result of the storm formerly known as Hurricane Helene that has produced widespread flooding and tornadoes.

Some of the worst flooding was in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Virginia. The Lake Lure Dam in North Carolina, famous as a scene from the 1987 hit movie Dirty Dancing, was in danger of failing Friday afternoon.

Eleven people in Georgia and seven in Florida died. One of the Georgia deaths was a first responder, according to Gov. Brian Kemp.

Four people, including two firefighters, were killed in South Carolina, but there could be more, Gov. Henry McMaster said at a news conference Friday afternoon. At least two people were killed in North Carolina and the death toll there is expected to rise, Gov. Roy Cooper said.

Parts of North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee are under a tornado watch until 6 p.m. Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Fifty-four people were stranded at Unicoi County Hospital in northern Tennessee after flood waters blocked the roads, Ballard Health said in a Facebook post.

"The hospital has been engulfed by extremely dangerous and rapidly moving water," the company said. "The situation at the hospital is very dangerous and TEMA and National Guard resources are engaged in what can only be described as a dangerous rescue operation."

TEMA is an acronym for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

The winds prevented helicopters from landing on the roof, Ballard Health said.

Two eastbound lanes of Interstate 40, which runs from Wilmington at the Atlantic Ocean to Barstow, Calif., at the Pacific Ocean, washed out into the Pigeon River near the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

Cooper, North Carolina's governor, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation said Friday afternoon that all western North Carolina roads should be considered closed. More than 359 roads were closed in western North Carolina, Cooper said.

Appalachian State, in Boone, N.C., canceled its Saturday football game with Liberty.

Atlanta had downed trees and flooding that closed roads. The Sandy Springs area received more than 17 inches of rain over two days, according to the Fulton County Emergency Management Agency.

Helene entered Florida as a Category 4 hurricane but died down to a tropical storm over Georgia. It produced flooding, gusty winds and some tornadoes miles from where it first made landfall.

The National Weather Service Prediction Center said Friday the storm will continue to move northwest, producing heavy rain.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Kim Jarrett | The Center Square, 'Helene drowns southeastern United States', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 27 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFEAB0E3F81B8