

September 29, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina Page: 1 OpenURL Link

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Winston-Salem Journal (online), 29 Sep 2024 1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
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September 29, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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September 29, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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# Panthers owner David Tepper, wife Nicole donate \$3M to Hurricane Helene relief efforts

September 28, 2024 | Associated Press State Wire: North Carolina (NC)

Section: Sports | 194 Words

OpenURL Link

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper and his wife Nicole have made an initial \$3 million commitment to Hurricane Helene relief efforts through their foundation.

It's to support immediate and long-term humanitarian aid and recovery efforts in North and South Carolina in the wake of devastation from the Category 4 storm.

The region remains in a state of emergency, and more than 50 people have died.

"The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation, Carolina Panthers, and Charlotte FC stand alongside all those who have been affected by Hurricane Helene and the devastation it has wrought across the southeast, and particularly in our backyard throughout the Carolinas," said David and Nicole Tepper said in a release.

Tepper purchased the Panthers in 2018. The foundation will assist a number of food banks and pantries, local community foundations and other service agencies in the Carolinas.

"This is our home and we are committed to supporting relief efforts throughout the region by providing critical resources and aiding the efforts of our heroic first responders," the Teppers said. "The impact on our community has been severe, but Carolinians are resilient and courageous, and together, we will rebuild and recover."

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# AP NFL: https://apnews.com/hub/nfl

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

'Panthers owner David Tepper, wife Nicole donate \$3M to Hurricane Helene relief efforts', *Associated Press State Wire: North Carolina* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE1B9CC0E6F118>



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# AP NFL: https://apnews.com/hub/nfl

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'Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper, wife Nicole donate \$3M to Hurricane Helene relief efforts', *Associated Press State Wire:*North Carolina (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE1B9CDD135430>



# Interstate 40 is impassable between Tennessee and North Carolina due to massive floods and a mudslide

September 28, 2024 | Carteret County News-Times, The (Morehead City, NC) Author: Staff Writer | Section: Regional | 174 Words
OpenURL Link

Interstate 40 is impassable between Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina, and beyond, because of catastrophic floods from the remnants of Hurricane Helene.

A mudslide and flooding have shut down the route.

Here are the I-40 closures listed on DriveNC.gov, though North Carolina Department of Transportation officials have told drivers all Western Carolina roads are essentially shut down.

South of Asheville, all lanes of I-26 are closed between Exit 49 to US 64 and Exit 53 to Upward Road.

All lanes of I-40 between Exit 66 in Ridgecrest and Exit 72 in Old Fort are closed due to a mudslide.

All lanes of I-40 are closed near Black Mountain, one mile west of Exit 64 to NC 9.

All lanes of I-40 are closed at the Tennessee-North Carolina state line.

All lanes of I-40 is closed at Exit 20 to US-276.

I-40 East is closed at Exit 4 to NC 191.

I-40 West is closed at Exit 7 to Cold Springs Creek Road.

On the Tennessee side, all lanes of I-40 in Cocke County are closed, according to a post TDOT made on Facebook. Copyright 2024, The Carteret County News-Times, All Rights Reserved.

## • Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Writer, 'Interstate 40 is impassable between Tennessee and North Carolina due to massive floods and a mudslide', *Carteret County News-Times, The* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a>
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE13DE3133F280>



# Flooding from Helene causes destruction and evacuations near Charlotte

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Video (NC)

Section: News 34 Words

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

'Flooding from Helene causes destruction and evacuations near Charlotte', *Charlotte Observer, The: Video* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE485D1CE143C8">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE485D1CE143C8</a>



# Drone footage from Mountain Island Lake

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Video (NC)

Section: News | 23 Words

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'Drone footage from Mountain Island Lake', *Charlotte Observer, The: Video* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE485D1D71F6C0">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE485D1D71F6C0</a>



# 165K without power in Charlotte area as Helene-swollen lakes threaten to flood

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer | Section: local | 579 Words OpenURL Link

At least 165,000 Charlotte-area Duke Energy customers remained without power Saturday morning, including 45,000 in Mecklenburg County, after former Hurricane Helene knocked down trees and power lines across the region on Friday.

The risk of flooding remains a threat. "Those who live along lakes or rivers or in flood-prone areas should follow directions from emergency management and pay close attention to changing conditions," according to a Duke Energy statement.

It could take until noon Monday for power to be restored in all parts of Mecklenburg County, according to the company outage map.

Duke Energy crews cut the number of Mecklenburg County outages in half overnight, from 90,000 on Friday, company spokesperson Logan Stewart said.

hurricane helene 018.JPEGThe roots of a tree downed by Helene on Tuckaseegee Road in Charlotte on Friday.

"Due to the severity of damage experienced and ongoing flooding challenges, we expect a multi-day restoration effort," Duke Energy officials said. "We greatly appreciate the patience of all those affected and will continue to provide updates."

At 7:45 p.m. Friday, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management warned that floodwaters will continue to rise, even without rain, as Duke Energy moved water from Lake Norman to Lake Wylie.

Cowans Ford dam floodwaters video

A shelter opened Friday at Tuckaseegee Recreation Center, 4820 Tuckaseegee Road. It will remain a shelter through Sunday evening. Emergency officials released no update Saturday morning.

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 would be hit next, emergency officials said.

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.

The storm that came ashore as Hurricane Helene knocked out power to a million Duke Energy customers in the Carolinas on Friday.

Western North Carolina was especially hard hit. All roads "should be considered closed" Saturday in the mountains, according to the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Helene deaths

One person was killed in northwest Charlotte and a second had life-threatening injuries when a tree fell on a house

in the 4200 block of Brookway Drive, MEDIC reported shortly after 6 a.m. Friday.

A 4-year-old girl died in a Catawba County head-on wreck during heavy rains Thursday morning, State Highway Patrol Trooper Christopher Casey said.

Children ages 2 and 12 who were passengers were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, Casey said. Both drivers were transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Helene has killed at least 43 people across five states since making landfall in Florida's Big Bend area late Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane that rapidly changed to a Category 2, The Associated Press reported. At least 13 people have died in South Carolina, 11 in Georgia and seven in Florida.

Over 100 swift-water rescues have occurred, "although we know there will be many more," Gov. Roy Cooper said at an 11 a.m. news conference Friday.

Outages remained widespread in the mountains on Saturday.

In Buncombe County, where Asheville is the county seat, 102,000 of Duke Energy's 149,000 customers had no power at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

EnergyUnited, the Statesville-based electric coop, said Saturday that crews have restored power to 20,000 of its member customers, while 10,000 remained without electricity.

Power should be restored to customers in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Rowan counties by 11 p.m. Monday. Restoration will take until 11 p.m. Tuesday for customers in Iredell, Gaston, Lincoln and six other counties, according to the company.

## Cowans Ford Helene flood waters video

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer, '165K without power in Charlotte area as Helene-swollen lakes threaten to flood', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE04A16E15A350>



# Flooded Catawba River homes prepare for more water as Duke moves Helene remnants

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Nora O'Neill, The Charlotte Observer | Section: local | 889 Words OpenURL Link

Mandatory evacuation orders were in effect south of Mountain Island Lake Saturday afternoon as completely flooded homes braced for several more feet of floodwater.

Roads near the lake and Catawba River were closed and under evacuation orders as Duke Energy pushed water through its system and into South Carolina. The Catawba River drains water from a basin that starts in western North Carolina, where Tropical Storm Helene produced floodwater that destroyed or cut off hundreds of roads. Helene also produced untold damage across the western half of the state because cellular and internet access remained limited

The mandatory evacuation order near Charlotte included areas of Riverside Drive, Lake Drive, Riverhaven Drive and some of Beagle Club Road and Hart Road, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management said Saturday afternoon. Areas near Allison Ferry Road, Arthur Auten Drive, Drake Cove Road, Neck Road, Ballypat Lane, Johnson David Road and Latta Springs were under a voluntary evacuation order.

"Things might get worse before they get better. Residents near shorelines need to stay alert to changing conditions. Flood waters will rise, even without rain," a statement from emergency management said Saturday morning. "Water will continue to rise rapidly causing flooding along the shorelines of lakes and rivers throughout the day.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_04.JPGA speed limit sign is wrapped in fencing as floodwater from the Catawba River passes near the intersection of Lake Drive on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Helene Twitter Mountain Island embed

Police at the scene said around noon the water could rise another 4 to 5 feet as Duke Energy opened another floodgate at Cowans Ford Dam. Flooding began Thursday morning, police said, and Duke began opening floodgates Friday evening, a post by emergency management said.

Duke had opened four floodgates as of 3:30 p.m. Saturday and expected to open more, according to statements from Gaston County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management.

"We remain highly concerned about flooding along the shoreline of Mountain Island Lake and the Catawba River System, from Lake Norman to Lake Wylie. The flooding is ongoing, with significant amounts of water still moving downstream," Paige Grande, spokesperson for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management, said in an email to The Charlotte Observer.

Gaston County has a shelter open at Belmont Middle School, located at 1020 South Point Road in Belmont. Tuckaseegee Recreation Center also is serving as a shelter at 4820 Tuckaseegee Road in Charlotte.

Flooding 001.jpgFlooding is seen at Lake Dr. and Harwood Lane in Mt. Holly Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024

Mountain Island Lake area residents

Residents gathered at the end of Harwood Lane on Mountain Island Lake alongside first responders from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and the Charlotte Fire Department watching the water rise. Multiple

residents said they were not prepared for flooding this bad.

Susan Covington, a resident of Lake Drive, called the flooding a catastrophic event.

"I'm so sad. I'm devastated. I had just bought my house in 2018 and spent the year remodeling when the last flood happened. I moved in in 2019 and lived in the house for three weeks when the flood happened in June," she said. "We blame Duke Energy for that one, but this is a catastrophic event."

Flooding from Helene causes destruction and evacuations near CharlotteRapidly rising floodwaters around Mountain Island Lake near Charlotte, N,C. severely damaged several homes and resulted in an evacuation order for people living on the south side of the lake, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024.

Record on Mountain Island Lake

Brad Panovich, chief meterologist for WCNC Charlotte, said on X Saturday afternoon Mountain Island Lake, sitting around 107 feet at noon, approached record water levels set by the historic 1940 flood.

Jeff Brooks, a spokesperson for Duke Energy, said in a video posted to X the company was working with local emergency management teams to manage the large amounts of water dropped by the storm.

"There is a significant amount of water in our system right now because of the heavy rainfalls," he said while standing in front of the Cowans Ford Dam. "What we're doing now is trying to manage those water levels by moving water through the system in a controlled capacity."

Brooks urged residents to stay updated on lake levels and alerts by local county officials.

drone images 003.JPEGA drone image shows homes submerged in flood water from the Catawba River Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_09.JPGDave Mooney a local resident on Harwood Lane, watches as floodwater from the Catawba River passes by on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_02.JPGA mailbox is submerged in flood water near the intersection of Hart Rd. and Riverhaven Drive on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

drone images 002.JPEGA drone image shows homes submerged in floodwater on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_06.JPGAs floodwater continued to rise, Jesse Riggins, left, and friend Matthew DePaola, right, carried household items from Riggins' home on Riverside Drive to a pickup truck on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_03.JPGA small out building is submerged in floodwater from near the intersection of Lake Drive on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_05.JPGA group of mailboxes are still visible above the floodwater from the Catawba River near the intersection of Hart Rd. and Riverhaven Drive on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_08.JPGA small building is submerged in the floodwater on Riverside Drive on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

CLT\_CATAWBA\_FLOODING\_01.JPGA resident stands at the end of Hart Rd. and Riverhaven Drive near Mountain Island Lake on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Drone footage from Mountain Island LakeMandatory evacuations south of Mountain Island Lake as water expected

to rise 4 to 5 more feet along Catawba River after Hurricane Helene.

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# • Citation (aglc Style)

Nora O'Neill, The Charlotte Observer, 'Flooded Catawba River homes prepare for more water as Duke moves Helene remnants', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE127606E9E1D8>



# Panthers' David & Nicole Tepper pledge Hurricane Helene relief donation for Carolinas

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Mike Kaye, The Charlotte Observer | Section: carolina\_panthers | 454 Words OpenURL Link

The foundation headed by the owners of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC has committed to an initial donation to provide relief for those impacted by Hurricane Helene in North and South Carolina.

Saturday, the David and Nicole Tepper Foundation, along with the Teppers' two local sports organizations, announced an initial pledge of \$3 million to provide immediate assistance to those impacted by the deadly storm that swept through the Carolinas on Thursday and Friday.

"The David & Nicole Tepper Foundation, Carolina Panthers, and Charlotte FC stand alongside all those who have been affected by Hurricane Helene and the devastation it has wrought across the southeast, and particularly in our backyard throughout the Carolinas," David and Nicole Tepper said in a news release.

"This is our home and we are committed to supporting relief efforts throughout the region by providing critical resources and aiding the efforts of our heroic first responders. The impact on our community has been severe, but Carolinians are resilient and courageous, and together, we will rebuild and recover."

CLT\_DeanSmith\_6.JPGCharlotte FC's new head coach Dean Smith, team owner David Tepper, Nicole Tepper, Charlotte FC sporting director Zoran Krneta and Charlotte FC President Joe LaBue pose at the end of an introductory press conference for Smith at Atrium Health Performance Park on Monday, December 18, 2023.

According to the release, the foundation will "assist a number of food banks and pantries, local community foundations, and other service providing agencies in the Carolinas."

Hurricane Helene inflicted massive damage across North Carolina and South Carolina on Friday.

More than 700,000 North Carolina residents were without power as of Saturday, according to the governor's office. And according to North Carolina Department of Transportation, nearly 400 roads were shut down in the area.

Communication in the area has also been severely impacted due to widespread network outages. Flooding has also been a major issue in several areas of the state, with 29 counties and 52 towns issuing State of Emergency calls.

Gov. Roy Cooper, who has issued a statewide State of Emergency, said Friday morning that hurricane caused two deaths in the state. More than 200 residents have been rescued from flood waters in the state, Cooper's office reported in a news release Saturday.

According to the governor's office, sixteen shelters housed approximately 1,100 residents Friday night.

"This is a historic and catastrophic storm for Western North Carolina and I'm grateful to first responders working right now to save lives and evacuate residents," Cooper said in a statement. "Efforts are also underway to get power and communications restored, and we're bringing in needed supplies by air."

In South Carolina, at least 23 deaths have been attributed to Helene. More than 1 million residents were without power in the aftermath of the storm Friday, according to The State.

# • Citation (aglc Style)

Mike Kaye, The Charlotte Observer, 'Panthers' David & Nicole Tepper pledge Hurricane Helene relief donation for Carolinas', Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE127608C39760>



# A count in progress: Helene damage to North Carolina, by the numbers

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joe Marusak and Drew Jackson, The Charlotte Observer | Section: north\_carolina | 329 Words OpenURL Link

North Carolina is still adding up the damage done by the powerful tropical storm that started as Hurricane Helene.

The day after the extreme rain and winds stopped, the full tally was unknown. But even the partial count is eyepopping.

Deaths: 32, at least.

Landslides: 11.

Roads closed: 280 state-maintained roads, mostly due to flooding, including Interstate 40 and dozens of closures along several other U.S. and N.C. highway routes.

Most road closures as of Sunday afternoon were in Henderson, Ashe, Buncombe, Lincoln, Cleveland, Jackson, Transylvania and Yancey counties, officials said during a news conference. Of the closures 52 are on primary routes, including Interstate 40 near the Tennessee line and near Old Fort.

Flood water rescues: More than 200 people.

RAL\_092722-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-36.JPGThe French Broad River breaks its banks Asheville on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024 as the remnants of Hurricane Helene caused flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Homes with no power: More than 500,000 across the state.

Public water systems: 52 are without power. 93 systems on a boil water advisory, and of those 33 are awaiting test results to clear that advisory.

State of emergency declarations: 29 counties, 52 towns.

Search and rescue teams from other states: 19.

Federal search and rescue teams: 3.

Top wind gust: 106 mph, Mt. Mitchell State Park.

NCDOT employees and contractors dispatched: More than 1,600.

Flight disruptions: Over 2,000 at Charlotte Douglas International Airport since Wednesday.

Shelters opened: 16.

People sheltered Friday night: at least 1,100.

Most rainfall: 29.5 inches, Busick Raws, Yancey County. (Many mountain locations saw at least 10 inches.)

Rocky Mount EF-3 tornado: 140 mph, 100 yards wide, quarter-mile-long path near Rocky Mount's Tiffany Boulevard.

Major disaster declaration request counties: 38, plus the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Major disaster declaration approval counties: 25, plus the Eastern Band. President Joe Biden approved the declaration Saturday.

Sources: Gov. Roy Cooper's office; Duke Energy; North Carolina Department of Public Safety; North Carolina Department of Transportation; National Hurricane Center; National Weather Service, Greer, South Carolina, and Raleigh offices; Flight Aware.com; North Carolina State Highway Patrol; North Carolina Emergency Management.

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Joe Marusak and Drew Jackson, The Charlotte Observer, 'A count in progress: Helene damage to North Carolina, by the numbers', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE1AB482D46D20">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE1AB482D46D20</a>



# 'We've lost everything.' Western NC town of Clyde is rebuilding — again — after Helene

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Ryan Oehrli, The Charlotte Observer Section: north\_carolina 631 Words OpenURL Link

People in Clyde were rebuilding Saturday — again.

For many residents, it was their second time getting hit by a storm and having to start over. For some, it was the third. In 2021, Haywood County got hit by Tropical Storm Fred. Before that, Ivan in 2004.

RAL\_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-33.JPGA North Carolina flag llies in the mud in Clyde on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

But neither compared to what they saw after Helene, residents told The Charlotte Observer. Helene, which struck Florida as a Category 4 hurricane before dumping historic rain totals on western North Carolina as a tropical storm, washed out roads and brought untold damage to a swath of the state. Cellular networks and internet access remained limited.

The water line from flooding nearly reached the ceiling of a home on Broad Street in Clyde, where Brandon Patterson raked mud and trash out of his stepfather's home.

RAL\_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-11.JPGBrandon Patterson points to the water line inside a flooded home in Clyde on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Patterson's stepfather, Tomas Quiroz, bought the house after Fred flooded it in 2021, hoping to fix it up.

Now he is back to square one, and his family says they will rebuild there.

Others on Broad Street were dealing with the same, familiar issues.

"We lost everything in the house just about," said Denise Dean, who lived just a few doors down from Quiroz, and who's lived on Broad Street for about eight years.

Unlike Quiroz, she's moving somewhere with higher ground. She's staying across the Pigeon River from her home after the storm. Her family has been in a hotel.

RAL\_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-36.JPGAmy Russell assesses damage to her dog training and pet food business in Clyde on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Nearby, husband and wife Lora and Mitch Nelson shoveled mud out of Lora's salon and barber shop, Superior Cuts, on Depot Street.

"That building never flooded before, if that tells you anything. They said FEMA and the National Guard are coming. But people've got livelihoods," said Mitch Nelson.

Lora Nelson's shop is plastered with mud. It's surrounded by buildings trashed by Helene. She's not sure how she'll be self-employed.

"It's devastating," she said.

RAL\_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-04.JPGResidents in Clyde begin cleaning up on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

There were some silver linings Saturday for people in Clyde.

Amy Russell and Lisa Monteith had about a dozen customers who, without any phone calls possible, just showed up to help.

Their pet food and dog training business flooded heavily — so much so that a bag of dog food found its way into someone's house on another street. They had the store for about three years, and already dealt with the "little flood," said Russell. There wasn't so much water then.

"We weren't expecting this," she said. "It's so heartbreaking."

RAL\_092822-HURRICANE-HELENE-TEL-28.JPGAlan Tabor shovels mud from a flooded home in Clyde on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 after massive flooding damaged dozens of homes and businesses. The remnants of Hurricane Helene caused widespread flooding, downed trees, and power outages in western North Carolina.

Russell said they're planning to reopen the smaller shop for dog grooming and training, just around the corner, and move the retail inside that location.

Her customers helped to clean out both locations.

"Lisa says that a customer becomes a friend before a friend becomes a customer," Russell said.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Ryan Oehrli, The Charlotte Observer, "We've lost everything." Western NC town of Clyde is rebuilding — again — after Helene', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE1F0ED0AAE438>



# Helene cancels South Carolina music festival featuring Eric Church, others

September 28, 2024 | Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer | Section: music\_news\_reviews | 230 Words OpenURL Link

Organizers of the inaugural outdoor Field and Stream Music Fest in Winnsboro, South Carolina, have postponed the Oct. 4-6 event due to Hurricane Helene, organizers said Saturday.

Eric Church was among the headline acts scheduled to perform along with Lainey Wilson, Lynyrd Skynyrd, ZZ Top and many others.

"It is with heavy hearts that we announce the postponement," organizers said in a statement. "Given the state of emergency and challenging conditions on the ground, this decision has been made out of an abundance of caution."

Hurricane Helene damage "has been severe, with widespread flooding, downed trees and blocked roads," organizers said. "Power is still out on site, deliveries have been delayed, and some areas of the festival grounds remain inaccessible."

The production team for the event and site engineers determined it wouldn't be safe to proceed.

"While we are deeply disappointed, the safety of our fans, sponsors, staff, and crew remains our highest priority," according to the announcement. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the storm."

To help recovery efforts, festival equipment, including restroom trailers, generators, and food supplies will go to assist FEMA and emergency services, organizers said.

"We are heartbroken but excited to bring you an unforgettable experience next year," organizers said. "New dates will be announced soon. Tickets and camping will automatically roll over to the rescheduled dates, and refunds will be available."

Refunds will begin within two weeks.

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Joe Marusak, The Charlotte Observer, 'Helene cancels South Carolina music festival featuring Eric Church, others', *Charlotte Observer, The: Web Edition Articles* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE0E867B080B98>



# Storm Helene kills 44, threatens more 'catastrophic' flooding

September 28, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC)
Author: Gerard MARTINEZ with Lucie AUBOURG in Washington | Section: National | 749 Words
OpenURL Link

Nearly four million Americans were still in the dark and many faced torrential flooding on Saturday, authorities said, as powerful storm Helene marched across eastern US states, leaving at least 44 people dead.

Emergency responders had launched massive rescue operations across multiple states since Helene slammed into Florida as a Category 4 hurricane and surged north, leaving roads, homes and businesses underwater -- many of them destroyed.

Power had been restored in some areas since night fell over the region Friday, but nearly four million customers were still without electricity across 10 states in the early hours of Saturday, according to tracker poweroutage.us, with US meteorologists warning of possible "long-duration" outages.

While Helene has weakened to a post-tropical cyclone, it has continued to wreak havoc with heavy rains that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said would result in "catastrophic and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding."

More evacuations were ordered overnight into Saturday as flooding threatened to breach dams in North Carolina and Tennessee.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned an eastern Tennessee dam was on the verge of failure and urged downstream communities to "move immediately to higher ground."

Record-breaking river flooding hit several southern states, the NHC said, with massive flooding reported in Asheville, a city in western North Carolina.

"This is one of the worst storms in modern history for parts of western North Carolina," state Governor Ray Cooper said in a briefing Friday night.

In Cedar Key, an island city of 700 people just off Florida's northwest coast, the full destructive force of the hurricane was on view.

Several pastel-colored wooden homes were completely destroyed, victims of storm surge and ferocious winds.

"I've lived here my whole life, and it breaks my heart to see it," said Gabe Doty, superintendent of Cedar Key's water and sewer district. "We've not really been able to catch a break around here."

- 'Gut punch' -

Up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) of rain was forecast in the Appalachian mountains, with isolated spots even receiving 20 inches.

In South Carolina at least 20 people have died, including two firefighters, officials said. Among the deaths were six residents of Spartanburg County, according to county coroner Rusty Clevenger.

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's office confirmed 15 people were killed in his state, including an emergency responder. Kemp warned that the city of Valdosta had identified 115 heavily damaged structures with multiple people trapped inside.

Florida's toll stood at seven. Governor Ron DeSantis said the damage from Helene exceeded that of hurricanes Idalia and Debby, which both hit the same Big Bend region southeast of Tallahassee in the last 13 months.

"It's a real gut punch to those communities," DeSantis told Fox News.

In Perry, near where Helene slammed ashore bearing winds of 140 miles (225 kilometers) per hour, houses lost power and the gas station was flattened.

"I am Floridian, so I'm kind of used to it, but it was real scary at one point," said Larry Bailey, 32, who sheltered in his small wooden home all night with his two nephews and sister.

Four hundred miles to the north in the Tennessee town of Erwin, a dramatic rescue operation unfolded, as more than 50 patients and staff were trapped on a hospital roof as floodwaters raged around them, local television footage showed. Helicopters were deployed in the rescue.

In neighboring Virginia, Governor Glenn Youngkin confirmed one fatality related to Helene. "This storm is not over," he warned in a video message.

Local media reported multiple deaths in North Carolina.

- 'It looks bad' -

With typhoon Yagi battering Asia, storm Boris drenching Europe, a deadly new hurricane damaging Mexico's Acapulco and extreme flooding in the Sahel, September so far has been an unusually wet month around the world.

Scientists link some extreme weather events to human-caused global warming.

"Helene traveled over exceptionally warm ocean waters in the Gulf of Mexico," Andra Garner, a climate scientist at Rowan University in New Jersey, told AFP.

"It's likely that those extra warm ocean waters played a role in Helene's rapid intensification."

"Storm surges are getting worse," Garner said, "because our sea levels are rising as we warm the planet."

In the impact zone, residents had been warned of "unsurvivable" storm surge.

President Joe Biden and state authorities had urged people to heed official evacuation warnings before Helene hit, though some chose to stay in their homes to wait out the storm.

Vice President Kamala Harris said she and Biden "will continue to monitor the situation closely," adding the administration has mobilized 1,500 personnel to support impacted communities.

The head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Deanne Criswell, said "over 600 rescues" have been conducted.

#### bur-mlm/bjt/sw/mtp

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Gerard MARTINEZ with Lucie AUBOURG in Washington, 'Storm Helene kills 44, threatens more 'catastrophic' flooding', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDFEABC5144EE8>



# Florida island starts long clean-up after Hurricane Helene

September 28, 2024 | Courier-Times, The (Roxboro, NC) Author: Gerard MARTINEZ| Section: National | 561 Words OpenURL Link

Michael Ward -- who has lived on Treasure Island, off Florida's Gulf coast, for 33 years -- decided to ride out Hurricane Helene despite an order to evacuate. It was a decision he quickly regretted.

Instead of going with his wife to a friend's home inland, the 67-year-old Ward stayed put. As torrential rains led to flooding, he feared he would be electrocuted in his one-story home, but the storm surge prevented him from even opening his door.

Ultimately, he climbed out of a window to escape. Waist-deep in murky water, he walked about half a mile to a neighbor's two-story home, where he spent the night.

"I can't believe that it happened. I have lived in Florida for 44 years, and too many times, the news reports about these storms turn out to be wrong," Ward told AFP.

"I guess we ran out of luck."

Treasure Island is one of a series of barrier islands across from Saint Petersburg.

Late Thursday, Helene claimed one life in this city of 6,500 residents, mainly home to retirees and wealthy professionals. Overall, dozens were killed in the storm in the United States.

The storm surge reached nearly seven feet (2.1 meters). Sidewalks are covered in mud, and random objects unmoored by the flooding -- couches, beds, refrigerators and doors -- are scattered in front of homes.

- 'Devastating' -

Arthur Czyszczon, 42, walks in and out of Page Terrace, the beachfront hotel he operates with his family.

Mattresses, nightstands and lamps are piled up outside. Like many others, Czyszczon evacuated the island ahead of Helene, and is now taking stock of the damage.

"It's devastating to see your community go through this. The saltwater does just massive damage," Czyszczon said, wondering aloud how his neighbors might recover from the storm.

Most of the one-story homes in the area are uninhabitable, and many residents do not have flood insurance because it is too costly.

"It's going to take some time to get the restaurants back, to get homes and hotels repaired. It will take the community to come together and work together better than before the storm," the hotelier said.

For Czyszczon and the other residents of Treasure Island, the long road to recovery has begun, with myriad worries and doubts. Ward said those issues kept him awake on the night the storm hit.

"I was just thinking about all the work coming that I would have to do," he said.

- 'Nightmare' -

Next to the bridge that leads to Saint Petersburg, Ross Sanchez says he does not want to contemplate the future. Like dozens of others seen in Treasure Island, he is carrying plastic bags full of items and clothes he recovered from his home.

Local officials have barred vehicles from coming onto the island so they can finish their clean-up work. That means Sanchez and other residents must walk about 1.25 miles (two kilometers) in high heat to get to the mainland.

"I've lived here for close to 40 years and never seen something like this," says Sanchez.

"I just feel too many emotions. Just utter shock. My four-year-old's toys are gone, his crib -- everything is gone."

Nearby, 74-year-old Gary Potenziano struggles to push a cart loaded with everything he was able to salvage from his house.

"This is a nightmare," said his 68-year-old wife, Patty.

"Hopefully we're going to come back tomorrow morning to our place to work, because we've got so much to do. Everything in our house is totaled."

#### gma/sst/jgc

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Gerard MARTINEZ, 'Florida island starts long clean-up after Hurricane Helene', *Courier-Times, The* (online), 28 Sep 2024 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE55E4AFE84458">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE55E4AFE84458</a>



# Helene threatens Florida's wildlife - Impact, risks different for many creatures

September 28, 2024 | Fayetteville Observer, The (NC) Author: Jeanine Santucci; USA TODAY | Section: News | 990 Words Page: A4 OpenURL Link

As Florida's Gulf Coast braced for Hurricane Helene, it wasn't just human residents who were at risk. Florida's wildlife, too, has to weather the powerful storm – and its destructive impact on their habitats.

Large sea creatures like sharks and whales are able to quickly move to calmer waters when a rough storm like Helene passes through and are generally not affected by hurricanes, according to the National Ocean Service. But other animals may be stranded, displaced or killed in large numbers.

"Any hurricane will affect organisms in the same way that it affects humans: Some will be affected more than others," said Deby Cassil, an integrative biologist at the University of South Florida.

After Hurricane Idalia last year, flamingos from as far as the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico were spotted across Florida and even in Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas. Manatees were left stranded after Hurricane Irma in 2017.

Hurricanes can generate massive waves, mixing warmer surface water with cooler and saltier water below. Reduced salt levels brought on by heavy rain or shifting sands that block sunlight in shallow waters can damage coral and other life. Rain and winds also impact birds, tortoises and many other species on land. But for the most part, Cassil said, Florida's wildlife can adjust to weather challenges.

As Helene approached, the zoo in Tampa transferred its large animals to their night houses, which it says are built to withstand bad weather. Smaller animals and birds were also brought indoors to ride out the storm, according to a statement from ZooTampa, and an "animal care storm-ride-out team" stayed at the zoo overnight.

For some animals, a hurricane can be "exciting," Cassil said. Whales and sharks, which are large and fast enough to swim away from real danger, run on similar brain chemicals as humans, such as dopamine and serotonin, she said. "A storm is great adventure for them."

Birds, too, may find a storm a stimulating challenge. Many birds caught in high winds can eventually find their way back because they are in tune with Earth's geomagnetic system, Cassil said.

Little marine worms called polychaete, a cousin of earthworms, have their own special way of surviving a hurricane, Cassil said. They build a tube about a meter down and just "bulldoze" down during a hurricane to stay safe.

For manatees, it's not much fun

Manatees may become stranded or injured by debris during hurricanes. In years past, they have been discovered after hurricanes in a dry bay, in a golf course pond and a retention pond. Hurricanes can also destroy their primary food source of seagrass beds, according to the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida, though Cassil said Helene is unlikely to be strong enough to do too much damage to their food.

If you see a stranded or trapped manatee – or other animal, such as a dolphin – after a storm, it's best not to approach it or try to rescue it yourself, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said. Instead, you can call the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922. A manatee may need medical attention after being stranded.

"The best way people can stay safe and help wildlife under storm conditions is to be alert and give wildlife their space," the commission says.

Most fish can withstand some rough water, Cassil said, and fish close to the coast that might see bigger waves have the ability to swim away from the turbulence.

The most common reason for fish to die after a storm is low oxygen levels in water caused by winds that push surface waters. Water from the bottom that is low in oxygen and may contain lethal hydrogen sulfide can rise up.

Also, if there are long stretches of cloudy days amid a storm, oxygen-producing organisms and plants can't photosynthesize, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Sea turtle nesting season also tends to overlap with Florida's hurricane season. The FWC says no storm season is a total loss for nesting sea turtles, because female turtles deposit nests throughout the season so that at least some nests will survive even if there is a storm. But hurricanes can cause higher tides, flooding the nests, or beach erosion, leaving nests to dry out or making them vulnerable to predators, according to Maia McGuire, a University of Florida marine biologist.

"After big storms, you may spot hatchlings tangled in seaweed on the shore or in places they don't belong, like pools or yards," the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said. Don't try to put them back in the ocean; call the Wildlife Alert Hotline. Turtles actively crawling toward the water don't need any help.

It's not just sea creatures that are impacted in a major tropical storm or hurricane. Residual effects of storms are felt by animals ranging from snakes to bears on land, and you may see animals in unusual places after a storm.

Bears are attracted to spoiled food and trash while communities clean up from storms. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission advises keeping any food waste and debris separate and secured.

Burrowing owls might turn up in the eaves of your home after a storm because high water levels from heavy rains can displace them from their burrows, and human activity during cleanup can bury them.

Flamingos ended up far from home after Idalia

In the aftermath of Idalia in 2023, flamingos turned up in areas of the U.S. where they'd never been seen before. In the weeks following the storm, at least 150 American flamingos were seen in more than four dozen locations across Florida and in at least 14 states.

The flamingos were swept up in the storm and deposited as far away as Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas. Many were traced back to the Yucatan Peninsula.

Some of the birds died, but others were seen starting to move back southward and forming groups, experts told USA TODAY at the time.

Contributing: Dinah Voyles Pulver, USA TODAY; Fort Myers News-Press

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Jeanine Santucci, USA TODAY, 'Helene threatens Florida's wildlife - Impact, risks different for many creatures', *Fayetteville Observer, The* (online), 28 Sep 2024 A4 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?</a> p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDF5F99FF0D970>



### Hurricane Helene threatens Florida's wildlife

September 28, 2024 | Gaston Gazette, The (Gastonia, NC) Author: Jeanine Santucci; USA TODAY | Section: News | 465 Words Page: A1 OpenURL Link

As Florida's Gulf Coast braced for Hurricane Helene, it wasn't just human residents who were at risk. Florida's wildlife, too, has to weather the powerful storm – and its destructive impact on their habitats.

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#### • Citation (aglc Style)

Jeanine Santucci, USA TODAY, 'Hurricane Helene threatens Florida's wildlife', *Gaston Gazette, The* (online), 28 Sep 2024 A1 <a href="https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDF3B7DB9DFA10">https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BDF3B7DB9DFA10</a>

