

As Waynesville readies for storm, residents asked to report power outages only once

September 25, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Paul Nielsen| Section: News| 418 Words OpenURL Link

Waynesville's chain saws are sharpened and gassed up in anticipation of torrential rain and high winds from the remnants of Hurricane Helene, Town Manager Rob Hites told town council Tuesday evening.

Waynesville public works has around 90 employees, and it will be all hands on deck the next few days, said Public Services Director Jeff Stines.

"Our equipment is operational and everything is fueled up and ready to go if we have to cut trees out of the road," Stines said.

In the event of power outages and downed trees, Hites said residents should report those issues — but he urged people to not constantly call the town asking about when their power will be restored.

"Please don't call every 15 minutes asking when the power is going to come back on," Hites said. "It doesn't help. We can sometimes get 1,000 calls an hour. Please be patient, we will be working as fast as we can."

Leading up to the storm, clearing storm drains of leaves and sticks was a top priority, to prevent rain water from backing up and flooding the streets.

"We have been cleaning storm drains as fast as possible," Hites said Tuesday night.

Crews continued the job of cleaning storm drains across town throughout the day Wednesday, Stines said.

"We want to make sure everything can outflow properly so hopefully we can avoid flooding in some streets," Stines said. "We are still going to have some of that in the low-lying areas in town."

Hites said the town has been preparing for the storm's impact since early in the week. Town leaders conducted an emergency meeting Tuesday afternoon and another on Wednesday morning. Hites reported that National Weather Service officials told town leaders that the remnants of the storm will make a "direct hit" on Haywood County.

"We expect sustained winds in the valley areas of around 30 miles per hour with gusts going up as high as 50 miles per hour," Hites said.

Waynesville has received several inches of rain in recent days and the additional rainfall from Helene coupled with the predicted high wind could result in trees being toppled.

"That softens the soil and could make some trees to come down," Hites said. "It also causes the most dangerous of all of our affects which is landslides."

Hites also said that residents need to constantly monitor the storm as it approaches the region.

"It can change almost hourly," Hites said of the forecast.

If there are significant outages, Hites said the town will seek restoration help from ElectiCities, which Waynesville is a member of.

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Getting ready just in case: towns and schools brace for hurricane

September 25, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Vicki Hyatt and Brionna Dallara | Section: News | 975 Words OpenURL Link

After watching their town ravaged by two "100-year-floods" in 2004, and yet another 100-year flood with Tropical Storm Fred 17 years later in 2021, Canton leaders track the weather more closely than most, especially during hurricane season.

That's how Canton Mayor Zeb Smathers picked up on a storm headed directly for Haywood nearly a week early. He spent Saturday night worrying, and the town jumped into prevention mode the next day.

Now the town is going all-out in preparation for the worst-case scenario. If the predicted storm path of Tropical Storm Helene holds and it becomes a hurricane as predicted, its arrival over the mountains at the headwaters of the Pigeon River could be an event every bit as damaging as previous floods that were supposedly only to happen once in 100 years.

"It's a very serious storm and it's very worrisome," Smathers said.

So the fire department has moved out of the building that has been steeped in water following every flood. Shade sails have been removed from public parks, all the movable items are gone from of the pool area, flood gates and sandbags are in place, and businesses that flooded in past years have been warned of the coming storm.

Lessons learned

Smathers has coordinated with N.C. Rep. Mark Pless to alert state emergency management crews to be on standby.

He is also putting out a call to all along the Pigeon River to be prepared for high water, urging them to move items that could wash downstream and cause greater damage.

"The less resistance water has to flow, the better off we'll be," he said. "Everybody is in better shape than we were three years ago. We've learned lessons from the past. My biggest concern is people's lives. I hope people will listen to the warnings."

Storm predictions show that up to 12 inches of rain could hit the region. The degree of flooding will depend on the intensity and duration.

In addition to the added preparation, another factor may be in Haywood's favor. River cleanup after the 2021 flood means there is less debris in the river than during floods of the past, something that was a key part of the latest flood recovery process.

The biggest difference with Tropical Storm Helene, Smathers said, is that people in Haywood have time to prepare for the worst.

"With Fred, we had hours," Smathers said. "With this one, we have days. I think we are as prepared as we can be. The buzz words of the day are preparation and prayer."

Clyde on the watch

Just downriver from Canton, Clyde officials are closely monitoring the storm.

"We're just waiting and watching," Town Administrator Joy Garland said. "Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't listen too well to us."

Part of the work has included moving equipment, such as backhoes, bucket trucks and dump trucks, to the parking lot behind town hall in case they are needed. That equipment is typically stored at a town facility on the other side of the river off of Hyder Mountain Road.

"We're doing our normal stuff," Garland said. "We're monitoring the storm. We're relocating any essential equipment we might need. We're checking culverts and making sure those are all clear."

Work has also been done at Rivers Edge Park — an overflow area that diverts water away from Clyde during heavy rains to keep the town from flooding.

"The park is in a good place to handle any water that may come our way," Garland said.

Haywood County Schools are working with their athletic departments and staffs to prepare for flooding should it come.

"We are working with Haywood Emergency Management, and we are making plans to be on the ready to move equipment and perishables at our flood prone areas should the need arise," said Trevor Putnam, superintendent for Haywood County Schools.

After the devastating flood of Tropical Storm Fred, Pisgah High School's football, softball and baseball fields in Canton were destroyed. This time Haynes said, Pisgah's athletic director Heidi Morgan has a plan to move equipment off the field and to higher ground, possibly to the school itself, to keep it away from the Pigeon River.

"As far as athletic equipment, things that are in concession stands, mowers or Gators, that kind of stuff that's down there, to move that to higher grounds or somewhere that will not flood in the event that it does," Haynes said.

When the school system repaired the damage from the 2021 floods, they also upgraded flood control measures to prevent future damage.

"FEMA required several things from us, which included flood mitigation measures," Putnam said. "All utilities have been elevated to above flood stage, and windows and doors to buildings have been floodproofed."

After the last flood three years ago, the Clyde facilities were repaired, but structurally remained much as they were. The school board has been considering whether to relocate from that flood-prone site and did not want to invest in major changes, Putnam said.

As far as the scheduled games go, as of now there is no decision made to reschedule games, though Haynes predicts decisions could be made tomorrow.

"That's really a school-by-school call," Haynes said. "But generally, the schools will send it out on Remind (app), in conjunction with social media and blackboard connect calls."

As for any foreseen school closures, it's still a waiting game.

"We're considering altering the school schedule due to the weather," Putnam said. "We stand on the ready."

The school board has received weather updates from the National Weather Service, and both Putnam and Haynes will be joining other county stakeholders during a webinar this afternoon hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We'll all pull up and see if there's anything that we need to take extra precautions on, on our end, as the storm

gets closer, and we know for sure the timeline and the track it's going to take, and how much precipitation that they are really projecting," Haynes said.

Aarik Long and Brionna Dallara also contributed to this story.

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Haywood County Fair closed Thursday, rest of the weekend still a go for now

September 25, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Brionna Dallara | Section: News | 483 Words OpenURL Link

Opening day of the Haywood County Fair is canceled Thursday but is still on Friday through Sunday as of now.

The Smoky Mountain Event Center will continue consulting with the Haywood Emergency Management when making the call to stay open or close.

"We are not making these decisions on our own," said Anessa Jaynes, one of the fair organizers. "We don't want to cancel things we've been looking forward to all year unless we have to, but safety comes first. We've spent the whole day trying to do what's best."

The fair board was quickly thrown into a race against the weather to batten down the hatches as Hurricane Helene begins to move in.

"The old tractors all had to be moved in, tents had to be taken down, animals had to be secured. And then just so many people involved in the fair just trying to reach out to all of them," Jaynes said.

As of now, the fair will continue as scheduled when the gates open at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jaynes said. Friday nights' Live Action Rodeo is still scheduled for 7 p.m., which is held under a covered arena.

Livestock shows for the duration of the fair are canceled. Inclement weather is expected to peak on Friday — a time when many contestants who travel hours for the event would be on the road — and local farmers are currently occupied with their own flood measures.

"The travel time for a lot of the contestants, they come from hours away, and their travel time would be during that hurricane weather," Jaynes said.

Jaynes said they have also been in close contact with the carnival crew at R&D Amusements who normally camp out during the weekend.

"We were going to offer them a safe place, but they already had that planned out," Jaynes said. "They are keeping up with the weather too and have a plan to go somewhere safe."

Thursday was originally the kickoff of the Haywood County Fair, which is set to run through Sunday, Sept. 29.

Thursday events were to include Pre-K Day and Fourth Grade Day — where kids get to explore different stations and enjoy the fairgrounds before the gates open — and Senior Day, sponsored by the Senior Center, are now canceled.

The big Bingo game that kicks off the fair is also canceled, but those whose hearts were set on five in a row can still play on the fairgrounds' regular schedule: the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Today had started off on a good foot for those at the Smoky Mountain Event Center, with judges sizing up fair entries as planned to award ribbons before opening day.

Fortunately, the entry hall, Dogwood Building, sits at a high point and has never flooded, said Jaynes — in other words, don't worry about any waterlogged handicrafts or soggy baked goods.

The Smoky Mountain Event Center will be posting updates as they come to their Facebook page.

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Flood fears prompt Haywood Schools closure Thursday and Friday

September 25, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Becky Johnson | Section: News | 129 Words OpenURL Link

Haywood County Schools will close the rest of the week due to the impending heavy rain and strong winds that will bear down on Haywood County Thursday and Friday.

A message was sent to parents and guardians via the school alert system shortly before 1 p.m. Wednesday.

"Haywood County is anticipating flooding and power outages from Helene over the next few days," Haywood County Schools Superintendent Trevor Putnam said. "We hope everyone stays safe during the bad weather headed our way."

Students won't get the next two days off, however. They will count as school days, with school work and assignments to do from home.

"We realize power outages are possible, which could potentially hinder remote learning. We have asked staff to be flexible regarding remote assignments," Putnam said in the message.

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Becky Johnson, 'Flood fears prompt Haywood Schools closure Thursday and Friday', *Mountaineer, The* (online), 25 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD52E5B09CEE58



Canton businesses on the move ahead of the storm

September 25, 2024 | Mountaineer, The (Waynesville, NC) Author: Vicki Hyatt vhyatt@themountaineer.com| Section: News| 525 Words OpenURL Link

CANTON — When Chris Watkins hears about tropical weather headed toward Canton, he pays close attention.

His store, Riverview Farm and Garden, has been flooded three times in the past 20 years, and if Tropical Storm Helene hits, he fully expects to get hit again.

If the rain levels hit the 12-inch mark, Watkins fully expects to see his store awash in 5 feet of floodwater.

"But then again, the river has changed so much we really don't know what will happen," he said.

Just a hint of possible flooding heading his way is enough to put Watkins in full preparation mode. Tuesday he was working to move as much inventory as possible into the upstairs area. He was also lining up trucks to haul off other items like potting soil and other bagged material that couldn't get wet.

"We're trying to be more organized this time," he said. "Last time, we had people grabbing and throwing things wherever they'd be dry and we were working in the rain. This time, we have longer to get ready."

Even though plenty has been moved, there's still much more to go. Watkins said he would welcome volunteers who wanted to lend a hand and help move some of the smaller items out of the way of potential flooding.

At American Cleaners which has also been flooded multiple times, preparations are already underway to move items to higher ground. Marguietta and Lauren Holcombe were still accepting items to be drycleaned, but already were working behind the scenes on flood prevention.

They also said volunteers would be welcomed to help with the task.

Across the street, Art O'Neill, co-owner of Bearwaters Brewing was overseeing a move-out process that would load items such as kegs, beer-making supplies and other equipment into box trucks where they could be moved out of the floodway.

Many items were bolted to the basement floor last go-around, but other brewing equipment was being moved out.

"Last time, this tank floated up to the ceiling," said Robert Antonicelli, who helps out around the brewery when needed. 'Last time water was 3 feet high in here."

O'Neill acknowledge that the move was hard work.

"But it's better to get things out just to be ready," he said.

On Park Street, the Canton thoroughfare nearest the Pigeon River, Caroline Ponton, curator of the Canton Area Historical Museum, wasn't worried.

Items in the basement were flooded and ruined during Tropical Storm Fred in 2021, but the museum just reopened this year, and only a table remained in the basement area. Nothing on the main floor was damaged during the last go-around.

"I do want to bring the table upstairs because it is a good table and we've learned that floodwater can get into the

pores of furniture and ruin it," she said.

Ponton said she was proud of all the preparation the town has done.

"They're on it," she said.

Down the street, Allison McDowell of Willow Hill Soap Company wasn't particularly worried, even though her business is relatively close to the river.

"We have a whole basement full of stuff, but really aren't worried," she said. "Last time it stopped just up the street from us. My husband is calling around to see if others need help."

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Tropical storm to bring rain, winds to Raleigh

September 25, 2024 | News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC) Author: Brooke Cain; Staff Writer | Section: News | 376 Words

Page: 1A OpenURL Link

Central North Carolina, including the Triangle area, will experience rain and storms this week as a tropical system makes its way to Florida through the Gulf of Mexico.

The strengthening storm is sitting in the Caribbean and expected to become a tropical storm with near-hurricane strength early Wednesday, Sept. 25, moving north and northwest into the Gulf of Mexico, says the National Weather Service's Raleigh office.

The storm is expected to intensify into a major hurricane before it approaches the northeastern Gulf Coast on Thursday bringing the potential for "life-threatening storm surge and damaging hurricane-force winds" along the Florida Panhandle and the west Florida gulf coast, according to the NWS-Raleigh.

A Tuesday, Sept. 24, update from AccuWeather said the storm could "make landfall as a major hurricane of Category 3 strength" but "could reach Category 4 status (130-156 mph) at some point while it is over the Gulf of Mexico."

"The highest landfall probability at this time is somewhere along the coast of the Florida Panhandle late Thursday," said AccuWeather, but a track into the Florida Peninsula could mean an earlier landfall Thursday.

The next tropical storm name on the list for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is Helene.

What are the impacts for Raleigh and central NC?

The impact on central North Carolina depends on how TC9 interacts with a trough over the midsection of the country, said NWS Raleigh.

But as of Tuesday, NWS Raleigh forecasts gusty winds and heavy rains with possible tornado threats, late Thursday into Saturday, depending on the track. There's also the potential for "considerable isolated flash and urban flooding" across the southeast and southern Appalachians.

NWS also says "minor to isolated moderate river flooding will be possible."

Central NC, including the Triangle, is expected to have higher than normal temps all week, along with higher than normal rainfall.

Another tropical wave to the west of Africa is not forecast to pose a risk to North or South Carolina.

Hurricane John makes landfall

in Mexico

Meanwhile, Hurricane John, a North Pacific storm, made landfall in south-central Mexico on Monday, Sept. 23, and "life-threatening impacts from flooding rainfall and mudslides" are in the forecast, says AccuWeather.

The system will continue to produce heavy rains over portions of Central America during the next several days.

That storm is not expected to impact the Carolinas.

Brooke Cain: 919-829-4579, @brookecain

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Brooke Cain, Staff Writer, 'Tropical storm to bring rain, winds to Raleigh', *News & Observer, The* (online), 25 Sep 2024 1A https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD2F1883220C38



Hurricane Helene could be 'historic storm' for the Southeast. What to expect in NC

September 25, 2024 | News & Observer, The: Web Edition Articles (Raleigh, NC) Author: Renee Umsted, News & Observer | Section: weather news | 550 Words OpenURL Link

Hurricane Helene is making its way toward the U.S. Gulf Coast, and is predicted to become a significant storm that will deliver rain to North Carolina in coming days.

The storm is expected to bring hurricane and tropical storm conditions to the Yucatan Peninsula on Wednesday, Sept. 25. It's expected to "rapidly intensify" over the Gulf of Mexico and move toward Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Helene is forecast to bring "life-threatening storm surge" and hurricane-force winds to parts of Florida, the NHC said in an advisory early in the morning on Sept. 25.

The United States, including portions of Florida, the Southeast, the Southern Appalachians and the Tennessee Valley, should expect "considerable and potentially life-threatening flash and urban flooding."

The center of the storm is predicted to reach land along the Big Bend area of Florida, late Thursday or Thursday night, as a "large major hurricane," according to the NHC.

Models show the eye of the storm heading north through Georgia and into Tennessee, near the North Carolina border. The NHC is predicting "devastating hurricane-force winds" across parts of northern Florida and southern Georgia where the core of the storm moves inland. Strong winds are expected over the southeastern U.S., including higher regions of the southern Appalachians, because the storm is moving quickly.

Weather Channel meteorologist Jim Cantore emphasized the impacts of Helene in a tweet posted around noon Sept. 25, saying it "will be a historic storm for many including southern Appalachia with flooding and wind damage."

CantoreHelene

"There is the risk for major flooding in parts of the Southeast late Thursday into Friday, including the Atlanta area as well as the steep terrain of the southern Appalachians, where the flooding risk can be especially elevated as well as the risk for mudslides and rockslides," AccuWeather chief meteorologist Jonathan Porter said in a report.

Screenshot 2024-09-25 081452.pngAccuWeather's model shows Tropical Storm Helene's path heading from the Yucatan Peninsula toward Florida, reaching the United States on Thursday, Sept. 25.

What are the impacts for Raleigh and central North Carolina?

The Triangle has already been receiving rain this week, and Helene is predicted to add to the total rainfall.

While the heaviest rain will affect areas west of the Triangle, the greatest impacts from the storm will come to Raleigh and central North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 27, Nick Luchetti, a meteorologist with the U.S. National Weather Service Forecast Office in Raleigh told The News & Observer.

Total rainfall from Helene is expected be around 1.5 inches in the Raleigh area.

There's also a chance of isolated tornadoes, especially across the western Piedmont, during the evening hours on Sept. 27.

Flash flooding is possible with heavier downpours. The NWS Raleigh office issued a flood warning for the Neuse River near Clayton in Johnston County, in effect through the morning of Thursday, Sept. 26. Other rivers in the area may flood, depending on the rainfall received ahead of and during the storm.

An AccuWeather report from 1 p.m. Sept. 25 warns of downed trees and inland flooding in western North Carolina.

The storm will weaken as it continues to move north after making landfall, but western North Carolina could experience gusty winds.

Ask NC service journalism team EMBED

A tropical storm may form in the Gulf soon. NC forecasters also watching the Atlantic

Cleanup begins in NC beach towns after historic rainfall and flooding from no-name storm

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Burke schools remote on Thursday and Friday, superintendent says

September 25, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Chrissy Murphy | Section: Education | 197 Words OpenURL Link

The expected arrival of Hurricane Helene has caused Burke County Public Schools to move to remote learning days on Thursday and Friday.

Burke Superintendent Mike Swan said Wednesday night that Thursday and Friday would be remote learning days as Hurricane Helene inland.

YMCA daycares will also be closed.

Doug Outlaw, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said Burke County could see up to 8 inches of rainfall. The mountains in western North Carolina could see up to 15 inches of rain, he said.

Helene, which is expected to tear through western NC late Thursday and early Friday, is expected to bring high winds.

Sustained windspeeds will range from 15-30 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph, Outlaw said.

With the ground already soggy from rain throughout the week, power outages are expected.

"What we're most concerned about is if it works out that there's 10 to 15 inches of rain over the mountains, then that brings the possibility of landslides, sides of mountains sliding down into the valley," Outlaw said.

Burke County declared a state of emergency for the county and all of its municipalities Wednesday afternoon.

Declaring a state of emergency allows local governments access to additional resources and emergency services.

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Caldwell County declares state of emergency for Tropical Storm Helene

September 25, 2024 | News-Topic, The (Lenoir, NC) Author: SHELBY POWELL spowell@newstopicnews.com| Section: Archives | 721 Words OpenURL Link

CALDWELL COUNTY — Caldwell County Board of Commissioners Chairman Randy Church has declared a State of Emergency for Caldwell County effective noon, Sept. 25, in preparation for Tropical Storm Helene for the county, according to a press release from the county. The town of Granite Falls has issued a similar declaration of emergency.

The Release

Emergency Services Director Trevor Key explained, "This declaration has been made in preparation for the potential impacts Tropical Storm Helene could have on Caldwell County; this is in no way a reason for panic or worry. This will simply allow the Department of Emergency Services to implement and function under the County's Emergency Operations Plan and will also assist in obtaining any resources that may be needed."

County officials encourage citizens to monitor their local weather channels and to follow the Caldwell County and Caldwell County Emergency Services Facebook pages for up-to-date information and important information on how to best prepare for its potential impact.

Caldwell County Emergency Services has been actively engaged in the preparation and response to the impending weather system and continues to work closely with other local and State officials in an attempt to lessen the effects on services provided to the citizens and visitors of Caldwell County.

Caldwell County Emergency Services reminds residents to:

Have enough food, water and medicine on hand at all times to last you at least three days in the case of an emergency. Be sure to have batteries, blankets, flashlights, first aid kit, rubber boots, rubber gloves, and a NOAA Weather Radio or other battery-operated radio easily available.

Always be aware that the roadbed under flood waters may be severely damaged. Never drive around road barriers or through flooded roadways. It is not only illegal, it's unwise.

Remember a mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks.

Emergency Services also reminds citizens not to call 911 for power outages. Residents should call their power provider.

- Duke Energy 1-800-POWERON (769-3766)
- Blue Ridge Energies 1-800-448-2383
- Granite Falls Electric 828-396-3358
- ∘ Rutherford Electric 1-800-228-9756

The State of Emergency will remain in effect until officials recommend that a declaration to terminate the State of Emergency is made.

The Lenoir Fire Department

Lenoir assistant fire chief and fire marshal Chris Jacobs said that the Lenoir Fire Department is constantly preparing for storms like these, watching radar and evaluating their potential impact. Jacobs said that a lot of the storms coming from the south are the worst storms for Caldwell County, with Helene being an example.

"They're saying we should get something in the neighborhood of 8-10 inches," said Jacobs, noting that as little as 2 inches can lead to stormwater problems. He said that, in Lenoir, a lot of the flooding conditions the fire department deals with are flash floods and are temporary with a relatively short timeframe.

The fire department has personnel who are swiftwater certified, and prepared to respond to flooding emergencies, Jacob said. Because the department is currently training a large number of new personal, it has also made the decision to request state assistance in the event that it is needed.

In the mean time, personal at the department are checking equipment and preparing for recovery, making sure they are ready to go. The fire department has also reached out to organizations that help the homeless population, like Yokefellow and the Lenoir Soup Kitchen, requesting that they spread the word for individuals to stay away from low lying areas or bridges prone to flooding, as well as trees or branches that may fall in heavy wind.

Jacobs echoed many of the suggestions made by Caldwell Emergency Services, adding that residents should be ready in case the power goes out and avoid downed lines. He said his biggest suggestion is that individuals stay home Thursday night and Friday, and to avoid crossing water if at all possible. He said those who regularly see flooding at their homes to take the opportunity to get away before it starts.

Jacobs said that, if the storm misses the Caldwell County area, personnel will likely be working to aid other departments more heavily impacted. Additional information on how to prepare for hurricanes (and similar weather conditions) can be found at community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions.

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Flood Warning issued in Robeson County region as Helene churns north

September 25, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC) Author: David Kennard The Robesonian | Section: breaking-news developing-news news-main top-stories | 285 Words OpenURL Link

LUMBERTON — A Flood Warning has been issued through 8 p.m. Thursday.

The National Weather Service in Wilmington said Wednesday that the Lumber River near Lumberton has risen above the 13-foot flood stage.

The warning includes rivers around the Robeson County region.

In Robeson County, minor flooding is forecast through Thursday evening.

"The flood waters may affect some residential property as water backs up into the drainage ditches in the city," according to Wednesday's statement from forecasters.

Forecasters are calling for periods of heavy rain and isolated tornadoes possible late Thursday into Friday "as bands of showers and thunderstorms on the periphery of Hurricane Helene affect the area.

On Monday, Gov. Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene on Wednesday as the state prepares for severe weather impacts that could threaten life and property across North Carolina through Saturday morning.

"Helene threatens heavy rain, flash flooding, landslides, and damaging winds to the mountains and Piedmont areas of our state," Cooper said. "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."

The State Emergency Response Team is deploying equipment, personnel and resources to support impacted communities, including resources from the North Carolina National Guard.

'We're certainly worried about the intensity of this one'

NWS forecasters said the large physical size of Helene "will bring some peripheral effects to the region. Very outer tropical bands will be capable of producing moderate rainfall and breezy conditions."

Forecasters said they expect a small but non-zero tornado threat. Hazardous marine conditions will develop with large waves and tropical storm force wind gusts. "The main timing window of these impacts will be late Thursday into early Friday," according to Thursday's statement.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD386A4511AF08>



High school football predictions for Week 6

September 25, 2024 | Robesonian, The (Lumberton, NC) Author: Chris Stiles The Robesonian | Section: sports | 715 Words OpenURL Link

It's becoming one of those seasons.

At every turn, weather has affected high school football through the first half of the 2024 campaign. Tropical Storm Debby interrupted preseason practice and scrimmages, some Week 2 games were suspended or postponed after Friday-night storms on Aug. 30 and Week 4 games were moved up to Thursday in anticipation of heavy rain (though, as it turned out, that Friday night would have been playable).

Now, with the combination of a cold front and outer bands of Hurricane Helene set to drop more water on the area over the next couple of days, games are once again moved up to Thursday night in Week 6 —though that may also be a soggy night, depending on the timing of the rainfall.

Siri, play "I'm No Stranger to the Rain."

As I make picks for this week, I'll channel Keith Whitley's classic and say it's time to "ride the wind and dance in a hurricane."

Last week: 3-1

Season: 14-3

Purnell Swett at Cape Fear

Talking to Purnell Swett coach Josh Deese ahead of this United-8 Conference matchup, he made it clear that the Rams know what the Colts intend to do — namely, run the counter — and they consistently do it well, making them hard to stop even with the knowledge of what's coming.

After watching Cape Fear (4-0, 1-0 United-8) dominate Lumberton on Friday, I'll add that the Colts are a very strong, well-coached, fundamentally-sound football team and they aren't going to beat themselves. They've also got a defense that has held the opposition to 27 points, less than seven per game.

The Rams (2-2, 0-1 United-8), meanwhile, struggled stopping the run against Gray's Creek, and are also still searching for offensive consistency, making this game an uphill climb as they face one of the two most likely title contenders in the United-8. I think Purnell Swett will play a better game defensively, but the Colts offense will still get theirs and Cape Fear will also make it tough for the Rams on the other side of the ball.

Cape Fear 35, Purnell Swett 14

Lumberton at Jack Britt

Lumberton coach Taurius Baker said after last week's loss to Cape Fear the Pirates (3-1, 0-1 United-8) had to do a better job of responding to adversity in-game, with that game spiraling for his team after allowing two early scores. With that result, they now face the adverse circumstance of overcoming a loss to open conference play, and will seek to move forward as they take the trip to Jack Britt Thursday.

Jack Britt (3-1, 1-0 United-8) has one lopsided win, one lopsided loss and close wins in their other two games, both with scores in the 20s. I think Thursday's game will take on a similar pattern, and it's worth noting that those games

have come against tougher competition than what the Pirates have seen outside of Cape Fear.

Lumberton was rattled last week when it got hit in the mouth for the first time this season. The Pirates will have learned from that experience and will be better-equipped this week to handle that in-game adversity — but Jack Britt's experience in nailbiters so far this season will allow them to play more comfortably and make a couple more plays.

Jack Britt 30, Lumberton 23

Fairmont at Northside-Pinetown

Fairmont takes a long bus ride to Northside-Pinetown, located just off the Pamlico River east of Greenville. The Golden Tornadoes do so coming off a bye week with an 0-4 record on the season, having lost by 28 points or more in each game they've played, though each have come against a school from a larger classification.

Fairmont has scored two touchdowns or more in each of their last three games, with the Golden Tornadoes passing the ball more and moving the ball more effectively than they did through much of last season, though a season high of 20 points suggests there's still work to do there.

But Fairmont's defense has allowed 35 points or more each week. While I will admit I don't know much about Northside-Pinetown (3-2) beyond the statistics available on MaxPreps, I know the Panthers have had a couple of impressive wins this season. In the last nonconference tilt for both sides, I think Fairmont can make some plays and keep the score respectable but that Northside-Pinetown will ultimately win the night.

Northside-Pinetown 40, Fairmont 14

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• Citation (aglc Style)

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Twin Counties may get rain, wind; slim chance of tornadoes from Helene

September 25, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: David Cruz | Section: Local | 1047 Words
OpenURL Link

While folks in the western part of the state are bracing for some severe weather in the coming days, a meteorologist with National Weather Service office in Raleigh said the Twin Counties might get a little rain Thursday night and continuing through Friday, with some gusty winds and a slim chance of tornadoes developing.

Helene is expected to become a Category 3 hurricane or higher, with winds above 110 mph on Thursday, the day it's set to reach Florida's Gulf Coast.

"Luckily, you guys are going to be pretty far removed from the system. It's expected to make landfall in the Big Bend part of Florida, the panhandle, tomorrow evening and accelerate pretty quickly into Georgia, South Carolina and then take a northwestern track into the Appalachians and then further west into the Mississippi Valley," said meteorologist Nick Luchetti on Wednesday.

Luchetti said Twin Counties residents should expect between 1 to 2 inches of rainfall Thursday and Friday. Heavy bands of rain could cause some flash flooding in urban areas. There could be strong winds also.

"Friday afternoon, there could be some isolated tornadoes" in the area, Luchetti said, "but honestly, that threat looks to be more further west. Given its track, you all might do pretty good with the system. If you were in the mountains — the Southern Appalachians, I'd be a bit more concerned."

Luchetti said the state's western counties can expect 15 to 20 inches of rain in the next couple of days as rain from another system started bringing heavy rains there Wednesday afternoon.

At 11 a.m. Wednesday, forecasters said that Helene had strengthened into a hurricane and was expected to intensify as it moved toward Florida.

The hurricane was about 500 miles southwest of Tampa, Fla., and had sustained winds of 80 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Helene became a tropical storm Tuesday in the western Caribbean Sea and caused flooding in the Cayman Islands.

Heavy rainfall was forecast for the southeastern U.S., with a life-threatening storm surge along the entire west coast of Florida, according to the hurricane center.

As the storm moved north along Mexico's coast toward the U.S., residents evacuated, schools closed and officials declared emergencies in Florida and Georgia.

The storm is forecast to intensify and grow in size as it crosses the Gulf of Mexico.

The storm is so large that rural areas roughly 90 miles north of the Georgia-Florida line are under a hurricane warning. And states as far inland as Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana could see rainfall.

"You are going to have a major hurricane plowing inland, and storms take a little time to decay once they're inland," said Brian McNoldy, an environmental researcher at the University of Miami.

Forecasters warned of possible tornadoes in western Florida and southern Alabama and said the tornado risk would increase Thursday, expanding across Florida and into Georgia and South Carolina.

Will Marx hunkered down Wednesday in his double-wide mobile home 13 miles inland in Crawfordville, Fla. The 64-year-old retiree put extra jugs of water in his freezer as he watched people move boats and RVs out of the storm's projected path.

"We will know tomorrow, I guess," he said.

Mexico is still reeling from former Hurricane John battering its other coast. John hit the country's southern Pacific coast late Monday, killing two people, blowing tin roofs off houses, triggering mudslides and toppling scores of trees, officials said Tuesday.

John grew into a Category 3 hurricane in a matter of hours Monday and made landfall about 80 miles east of the resort city of Acapulco, near the town of Punta Maldonado, with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph before weakening to a tropical storm after moving inland.

Mara Lezama, the governor of the coastal state of Quintana Roo, shared photos of rain-swept streets and videos of the normally placid, turquoise waters off the island of Cozumel being whipped into angry waves that broke over the seawall. In Cancun, heavy waves threatened to worsen the resort city's problem with beach erosion.

Tropical storm warnings were in effect for the upper Florida Keys, southern Florida and the northeast coast of Florida and were extended northward Wednesday morning to Altamaha Sound, Ga. A tropical storm watch was in effect for the South Carolina coast north of the Savannah River to the South Santee River.

Hurricane watches, which are a step down from warnings, were also in effect for parts of western Cuba and Florida, including the Tampa Bay area, the hurricane center said.

Several counties on Florida's west and northwestern coasts have issued evacuation orders, and schools planned to close or reduce hours. Gas stations in the Tallahassee area started to run out of gas Monday, and water and other supplies flew from supermarket shelves.

President Joe Biden declared an emergency in Florida.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who already issued an emergency for most of the state's counties, said Wednesday that 12 health care facilities have evacuated. He urged people to prepare immediately.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp also declared an emergency in his state. The hurricane warning area included Valdosta, a city of 55,000. Helene approached barely a year after Hurricane Idalia inflicted more than \$6 million in damage to 1,000 homes and other property.

In western Cuba, authorities moved cattle to higher ground and seven medical brigades were dispatched to communities usually cut off by storms. Helene was expected to dump heavy rain on the western part of an island already struggling with severe water shortages and chronic power outages.

The Cayman Islands were recovering after they were lashed Tuesday with heavy rains and big waves. The strong winds knocked out power in some areas, while heavy rain and waves as high as 10 feet unleashed flooding. Schools on the islands remained closed Wednesday as flood warnings continued and residents pumped water out of their flooded homes.

Helene is the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1. Since 2000, eight major hurricanes have made landfall in Florida, according to Philip Klotzbach, a Colorado State University hurricane researcher. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season this year because of record-warm ocean temperatures.

Associated Press journalists Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Andrea Rodríguez in Havana; Marcia Dunn in

Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Mark Stevenson and María Verza in Mexico City; and Claire Rush in Portland, Ore., contributed to this report. Hollingsworth reported from Mission, Kansas.

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High School football games moved up to Thursday

September 25, 2024 | Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles (NC) Author: Jim Green | Section: High Schools | 91 Words OpenURL Link

Due to the impending effects of Tropical Storm Helene on Friday, all of the high school football games involving Nash and Edgecombe County schools are being moved up to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Nash and Edgecombe County schools are being moved up to 7 p.m. on Thursday.
The schedule is as follows:
Northern Nash at Bunn
Franklinton at Nash Central
Southern Nash at Roanoke Rapids
Havelock at Tarboro
Rocky Mount Prep at North Edgecombe
SouthWest Edgecombe at Greene Central
St. David's at Rocky Mount Academy
Halifax Academy at Faith Christian

Rocky Mount has an open date this week.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Jim Green, 'High School football games moved up to Thursday', *Rocky Mount Telegram: Web Edition Articles* (online), 25 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD1C12DEF91F78>



Governor declares State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene

September 25, 2024 | Washington Daily News (NC) Author: N.C. Governor's Office | Section: News | 327 Words OpenURL Link

Read the Order.

RALEIGH: Today, Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene as North Carolina prepares for severe weather impacts that could threaten life and property across North Carolina through Saturday morning.

Helene is forecast to cause significant impacts including flash flooding, numerous landslides, damaging debris flows, slope failures across steep terrain, and riverine flooding across portions of western North Carolina and portions of central North Carolina. Flooding may occur in areas that do not typically flood. All North Carolinians should be weather aware and prepared. Tropical storm force winds are possible across western North Carolina late Thursday into Friday. With already saturated soils, trees could fall causing widespread power outages. There is a potential for tornadoes with this storm system. Tornadoes from tropical systems can quickly spin up with little warning.

"Helene threatens heavy rain, flash flooding, landslides, and damaging winds to the mountains and Piedmont areas of our state," said Governor Cooper. "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."

The State Emergency Response Team is deploying equipment, personnel, and resources to support impacted communities, including, North Carolina Swift Water Rescue Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Teams, resources from the North Carolina National Guard, and specialized personnel for communications and incident management support.

North Carolina residents are advised to stay aware and keep a watch on the forecast. State officials advise these tips to make sure your family is personally prepared:

The State of Emergency facilitates state emergency operations and allows for the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety to take action to ensure the quick movement of utility vehicles to eliminate power outages, vehicles carrying essential supplies such as food, medicine and fuel or transporting livestock, poultry and crops.

Read the State of Emergency.

The post Governor declares State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene appeared first on Washington Daily News.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

N.C. Governor's Office, 'Governor declares State of Emergency ahead of Hurricane Helene', *Washington Daily News* (online), 25 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD2CA853C50518



WCES, local municipalities preparing for Tropical Storm Helene impacts

September 25, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 597 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA - Watauga County Emergency Services, local municipalities, and Watauga County Schools are preparing for potential impacts from Tropical Storm Helene and encouraging residents to do the same.

According to the National Weather Service, the area is expected to receive heavy rainfall today (Sept. 25) and even more from Tropical Storm Helen on Thursday, Sept. 26, and Friday, Sept. 27.

More than six inches of rain is possible in the area, with the potential for flash flooding due to repeated rounds of heavy rainfall through Friday. It is also likely to cause widespread minor to moderate river flooding, with isolated major river flooding possible, according to the National Weather Service.

A flood watch will remain in effect in the area from 2 p.m. Sept. 25 through Thursday evening.

"Watauga County has been in contact with local, regional, and State emergency managers as Helene approaches," Watauga County Emergency Services Director Will Holt said. "It is important to note that Helene is coming on the heels of several days of rain already, which has saturated the soil in some areas. Additionally, we have been validating equipment readiness, coordinating planning with key stakeholders, and adjusting operations as needed for potential impacts."

Both the Boone and Blowing Rock fire departments have been checking their swift water equipment and are prepared to respond locally. The Watauga County Rescue Squad can also respond to swift water emergencies.

Town staff in Boone and Blowing Rock have been working to clear storm drains and ditches and are ensuring equipment is ready to respond if needed.

Watauga County Schools is monitoring the storm and it's potential impacts. The school system is "working closely with outside agencies, as well as our team, to determine if an adjustment to the operation of school is necessary later this week." Once a decision is made, it will be passed along to families.

S

App State is also monitoring the storm track for Hurricane Helene, and is in regular communications with the National Weather Service regarding the forecast's developments.

The university encourages students, faculty and staff to:

Review preparedness measures at emergency.appstate.edu.Stay alert for messages that will be sent to appstate email accountsRegister for AppState-ALERTs

"App State will provide regular updates to the campus community as we learn more about Helene's storm track and any possible impacts to regular campus operations in Boone and Hickory. Should there be any changes to the campus operational conditions, this information will also be posted to the university homepage."

The university is taking preparedness steps, and will continue to do so, as the storm develops. Some of these actions include:

Performing pre-storm checks on residence halls and other campus buildingsClearing drainage areas to minimize

flood riskPlacing sandbags in areas known to floodMoving vehicles and equipment away from flood prone areasCoordinating with local, state and UNC System emergency management partners

At Home Preparations

"Today is a good day to finish preparations for the storm. As leaves have started to fall in some areas, making sure culverts and drains are clear of debris will go a long way to help prevent flooding due to runoff," Holt said. "Additionally, as we discuss in every event, making sure you are self-sufficient for three days is one of the biggest ways you can do your part to reduce strain on emergency resources."

To learn more about how to best prepare, visit www.readync.gov/.

With flooding likely, Holt has another reminder for the community: turn around, don't drown.

"As a final reminder, do not drive through flood waters or touch down utility lines, almost every major storm results in several deaths from these two causes," Holt said.

The Watauga Democrat will update this story with forecast changes as they become available.

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Hurricane Helene Local Updates

September 25, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 274 Words OpenURL Link

This story will be updated with information as Hurricane Helene and its outer bands approach the High Country, including updates on the forecast, power outages, closings/delays and storm damage reports.

Forecast Updates

A flood watch is currently in place through Thursday evening as flooding caused by excessive rainfall continues to be possible in the area.

Heavy rain associated with Hurricane Helene will likely result in widespread flooding on Thursday through Friday.

Wind gusts at higher elevations could reach 35 to 45 mph on Thursday night and Friday.

Storm Damage

A strong storm that blew through the area Wednesday evening brought down more than 25 trees in a short period of time in Blowing Rock.

According to Blowing Rock Town Manager Shane Fox, the trees came down in the area of Birch Drive and Chetola. He said while he has seen 25 so far, it could be as high as 50 trees down. The storm started around 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Closings and Delays and

Watauga County Schools will dismiss early on Thursday, Sept. 26, due to Hurricane Helene to provide families time to prepare for incoming inclement weather. K-8 schools will dismiss at noon and WHS/WIA will dismiss at 1 p.m.

The Holiday/Snowday Program and the Afterschool Program will not operate tomorrow.

The WCS weather team will continue to monitor the storm's track. If this decision changes, it will be communicated by 6 a.m.

All middle and high school athletic events and practices have also been cancelled.

Power Outages

According to the Blue Ridge Energy outage map, as of 8:40 p.m., there are 215 BRE members without power, with the majority of them in the northern end of the county in the MEat Camp area.

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Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com, 'Hurricane Helene Local Updates', *Watauga Democrat, The*(online), 25 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD527E45DB1D70



WCES: Stay alert as storms move through area ahead of Hurricane Helene

September 25, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: News| 89 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — As storms move through the area ahead of Hurricane Helene, Watauga County Emergency Services is reminding people to stay alert.

WHile the tornado warning has expired for Watauga County, WCES Director Will Hold said that the current environment is conducive to these quick spin ups.

"It is imperative to have a way to get warnings while sleeping (phone, etc.)," Holt said. "It's important to note this is all ahead of Helene, which is why we are emphasizing taking this situation seriously."

Visit www.readync.gov/plan-and-prepare/get-kit to learn more about staying prepared.

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WCS to dismiss early on Sept. 26

September 25, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Local | 71 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — Watauga County Schools will dismiss early on Thursday, Sept. 26, due to Hurricane Helene to provide families time to prepare for incoming inclement weather. K-8 schools will dismiss at noon and WHS/WIA will dismiss at 1 p.m.

The Holiday/Snowday Program and the Afterschool Program will not operate tomorrow.

The WCS weather team will continue to monitor the storm's track. If this decision changes, it will be communicated by 6 a.m.

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Blue Ridge Energy advises members to be prepared for storm impacts

September 25, 2024 | Watauga Democrat, The (Boone, NC) Author: Staff Report news@wataugademocrat.com | Section: Local | 377 Words OpenURL Link

HIGH COUNTRY — Blue Ridge Energy line technicians and staff are on high alert and prepared to respond should the effects of Hurricane Helene, which is expected to impact the area Thursday night and Friday, cause outages.

The cooperative advises members to be prepared with the following tips:

Before a storm, have the following on hand to stay safe and more comfortable in the event of an outage:Flashlights and extra batteriesExtra water for drinking, cooking and for petsNon-perishable food that can be eaten without an oven or microwave such as: fruit, energy bars, canned tuna or chicken, crackers, peanut butter, cereal, canned coffee and drinks. Include a manual can opener.NOAA Weather Radio. Or sign up for alerts from emergency and weather services on a smart phone or tablet.First aid kit, including prescription medicationsCharcoal or propane grill (use only in a well-ventilated areas)Keep cell phones charged and have fully charged battery backupsIf elderly or dependent upon life support equipment powered by electricity, have a back-up plan in case storm damage to the electric system is severe enough to require extra restoration time to repair downed powers lines and poles.

Outages may be reported in the following ways:

Call PowerLine: 1-800-448-2383Over the Blue Ridge Energy mobile appBy text (be sure your mobile number is listed on your account) and text OUT to 70216.

For outage status at any time:

Check the cooperative's online outage map at www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com and on our mobile app.

Safety:

Stay away from downed power lines. Don't touch a downed line or any object that is in contact with it. This can be dangerous or even deadly! Always report downed power lines to the cooperative by calling 1-800-451-5474. A trained line technician is the only person who should handle downed power line situations.

Blue Ridge Energy posts information during major outages on its social media channels: www.facebook.com/blueridgeenergy; www.instagram.com/blueridgeenergy and www.twitter.com/blueridgeemc. However, outage reporting is only available using one of the three options above (phone, mobile app or text) to ensure all outages are logged into the cooperative's outage management system.

Blue Ridge Energy serves some 78,000 members in Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, and parts of Wilkes, Avery and Alexander counties. Its propane and fuels subsidiary serves customers in the cooperative's service area as well as Burke, Catawba, and Grayson County, Va. Learn more at www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BD527E4C0F5F30>



Helene forms in the Caribbean - Helene forms in the Caribbean

September 25, 2024 | Winston-Salem Journal (NC) Author: HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press | Section: A | 340 Words Page: 8 OpenURL Link

TROPICAL WEATHER

Tropical Storm Helene formed Tuesday in the Caribbean Sea and could strengthen into a major hurricane while moving north toward the U.S., forecasters said. Heavy rains and big waves already lashed the Cayman Islands, and some Florida residents filled sandbags days ahead of anticipated flooding.

Hurricane watches were issued for parts of Cuba, Mexico and a stretch of the Florida coastline, including Tampa Bay, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. A tropical storm warning was issued for parts of the Florida Keys.

The storm was expected to strengthen into Hurricane Helene on Wednesday as it approached the Gulf Coast and could become a major hurricane Thursday.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm John struck Mexico late Monday with life-threatening flood potential after growing into a Category 3 hurricane in a matter of hours.

It came ashore near the town of Punta Maldonado before weakening back to tropical storm status early Tuesday and was expected to weaken rapidly. Still, the U.S. National Hurricane Center warned that the storm's slow pace and heavy rains could cause potentially catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides.

Evelyn Salgado, the governor of the coastal state of Guerrero, said two people died when the storm sent a mudslide crashing into their house on the remote mountain of Tlacoachistlahuaca, further from the coast.

In the U.S., federal authorities positioned generators, food and water, along with search-and-rescue and power restoration teams, White House spokesperson Jeremy Edwards said.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency Monday ahead of the storm's arrival on the state's Gulf Coast as soon as late Thursday and increased the counties included in the high-risk area Tuesday from 41 to 61.

The storm is expected to move over deep, warm waters, fueling its intensification. People in regions under watches and warnings should be prepared to lose power and should have enough food and water for at least three days, an official said.

Helene, the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, could strengthen into a major Category 3 hurricane - with winds of at least 111 mph - before approaching the northeastern Gulf Coast.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH; and DÁNICA COTO; Associated Press, 'Helene forms in the Caribbean Helene forms in the Caribbean', *Winston-Salem Journal* (online), 25 Sep 2024 8 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BCF7DE1FA27ED8>