

Burke County school canceled Monday to Wednesday

September 29, 2024 | News Herald, The (Morganton, NC) Author: Virginia Annable | Section: Education | 152 Words OpenURL Link

There will be no school in Burke County Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after Tropical Storm Helene through significant damage to the county.

In a Facebook post Saturday, Burke County Public Schools said school would be closed to students and staff.

Freedom High School's athletic fields were under water Saturday after the storm. As of noon Sunday, about 70% of the county was still without power, according to poweroutage.us.

The school system also canceled a school board meeting that was scheduled for Monday.

Caldwell County schools are canceled Monday, according to a Facebook post from the school system. It is an optional teacher workday for the system.

Alexander County also canceled school for Monday, Sept. 30, the school system said in a Facebook post.

"In this most difficult time, we value each employee's service and are understanding of the need to take care of yourself and your family if the storm has caused hardships," Alexander County Schools said.

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"They volunteered very quickly" - County officials, more firefighters deploy to western N.C.

September 29, 2024 | News Reporter, The (Whiteville, NC) Author: Justin Smith justinsmith@nrcolumbus.com| Section: Crimes | 511 Words OpenURL Link

A group of nine Columbus County government staffers, including some top administrators, traveled to western North Carolina Sunday to assist with Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

"I am extremely proud of our team," said County Manager Eddie Madden. "Many have signed up for their first time to participate in an event like this. When we called upon them, they volunteered very quickly."

Madden said the county contacted state officials Saturday night after soliciting volunteers and received instructions around 10 p.m.

The team that left Sunday morning around 9 a.m. included Madden, County Attorney Amanda Prince, Assistant County Attorney Misty Jorgensen, Human Resources Director Kay Stephens, Facilities Director Stuart Carroll, Emergency Medical Director Jody King, Deputy Fire Marshal Jonathan Juhl, and Madison Priest and Hannah Patrick from the building inspections department.

While Juhl and King were deployed to Polk County, the rest of the county employees arrived in Catawba County around 1:30 p.m. Speaking with The News Reporter just before 3 p.m., Madden said that the team had received a briefing in Catawba County and was traveling to Buncombe County, where they expected to receive specific assignments. He said the delegation would likely be divided among three locations: Black Mountain, UNC Asheville and a health and human services facility.

Emergency Services Director David Ransom, Deputy Emergency Services Director Teresa Smith and Fire Marshal Shannon Blackman plan to travel to the western part of the state to participate in the relief efforts later in the week, according to Madden.

Madden said it was important for Columbus County, which was largely spared the effects of Helene, to aid communities on the other end of the state.

"When others across the state need help, we need to respond because there will come a time when we need help from them," Madden said.

Whiteville, Nakina firefighters

A group of firefighters from Whiteville also left Columbus County Sunday morning to assist with relief efforts in the mountains.

Deployed in an engine from Whiteville Fire Department were Marquise Blanks, Rocky McPherson, Jacob Prease and Jeremy Hooks.

The crew expected to arrive at their duty station in McDowell County around 4 p.m., McPherson said.

As The News Reporter previously reported, four members of Nakina Fire Department deployed Friday morning for Buncombe County. They are Captain Bobby Nichols and firefighters Adam Voyales, Joey Santos and Chris Chinni.

Donations

Several organizations in Columbus County are accepting donations for hurricane victims in western North Carolina.

Whiteville Police Department announced on Facebook that needed items include:

Bottled WaterGatorade/PoweradeNon-perishable canned goods/foodsToiletry items (ie. toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, toilet tissue)All packaged clothing such as T-shirts, boxers/underwear, socks. (Please no used or loose clothing as it will not be accepted)

Drop off locations are:

Whiteville Fire Department: 120 E. Columbus St., WhitevilleTabor City Fire Department: 113 W. 4th St., Tabor CityFair Bluff Fire and Rescue: 152 Main St., Fair BluffNakina Fire and Rescue: 214 Ramsey Ford Rd.

The Columbus County Sheriff's Office announced that it is also accepting donations at its office, 817 Washington St., Whiteville.

"We aim to fill a 53-foot van trailer with essential supplies to be delivered to western N.C. Your generous donations can make a significant difference," a CCSO Facebook post stated.

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Columbus County manager describes 'desperate situation' on the ground in western N.C.

September 29, 2024 | News Reporter, The (Whiteville, NC) Author: Justin Smith justinsmith@nrcolumbus.com| Section: Crimes | 1145 Words OpenURL Link

County Manager Eddie Madden and eight other Columbus County government employees deployed to the North Carolina mountains Sunday morning to assist with Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

The News Reporter spoke with Madden Sunday afternoon after the team had received an initial briefing in Catawba County and were on their way to their assignments in Buncombe County.

Madden e-mailed the following account Monday just before 2:30 a.m.

"I cannot begin to describe the situation in Buncombe County. It was an awful sight to see on our drive in, where small towns and communities were decimated by landslides and flooding. Currently there is no drinking water here other than bottled water, no electricity in most places, no fuel at gas stations and some of the municipalities are running low on their fuel supplies for emergency vehicles. Looting has occurred in downtown Asheville as people become more and more desperate.

"We have been discussing things throughout the evening such as how to address a complete system failure of the water supply, and how to arrange for more cots for the county shelters because there are more people in shelters than beds to accommodate them. We've also reached out to the State Emergency Management Office and the governor's office to order more supplies.

"On Monday morning we will be meeting with the Buncombe County manager and the county departments to assess their needs as well as hopefully have a better understanding of what repairs to the water system must occur so that the county residents can have water service restored.

"We've heard horror stories of people losing everything they had, and about the many deaths that have occurred, with even more people still missing.

"The workers in the Emergency Operations Center are exhausted and distraught. They are frustrated with the lack of help they have received. They are seemingly 'building the airplane as they are flying it' because they have never seen such devastation and widespread loss.

"It is a desperate situation here, but I am hoping that things will improve in the coming days as we arrange better resources and as utilities are restored.

"Let me finish by encouraging the people of Columbus County to donate to our mountain counties. Columbus County will begin accepting donations at our Webster Street office location in Whiteville on Monday with the hopes that David Ransom, Shannon Blackman, and Teresa Smith from our Emergency Services Department can drive the donated items here later this week. I am sure that the Baptist Men, the Red Cross, the United Way and other organizations are also taking donations this week.

"Last, let me encourage everyone who can to please donate blood this week because the hospitals here are overwhelmed and are in short supply of blood.

"Thank you for allowing me to share an update with you. Please keep our Columbus County teams that are serving in Buncombe County and Polk County in your prayers."

Madden provided the following update just after 3 p.m.:

"Since this morning, our team has helped set up a third Red Cross shelter, deliver food and water to the county distribution center volunteers, serve meals and have had conversations with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County on the status of water system repairs. Unfortunately the Asheville water reservoir that serves over 100,000 customers is contaminated with storm debris and runoff and is largely inaccessible by vehicle due to washouts. Cell service and electricity is still out to most of the county.

"Stuart Carroll, Amanda Prince, and Misty Jorgenson have been assisting the town of Black Mountain with onboarding helicopters with supplies and extending their state of emergency to include the issuance of curfews.

"Jonathan Juhl and Jody King are still in Polk County. I do not have any updates from them because communications are mostly dark there.

"Donations of water and supplies have started to arrive.

"Tomorrow, Kay Stephens and I will be assisting with search and rescue efforts throughout the county.

"Buncombe County has published a way for people to donate money. E-mail helenedonations@buncombecounty.org."

'They volunteered very quickly'

Madden said the county contacted state officials Saturday night after soliciting volunteers and received instructions around 10 p.m.

The team that left Sunday morning around 9 a.m. included Madden, County Attorney Amanda Prince, Assistant County Attorney Misty Jorgensen, Human Resources Director Kay Stephens, Facilities Director Stuart Carroll, Emergency Medical Director Jody King, Deputy Fire Marshal Jonathan Juhl, and Madison Priest and Hannah Patrick from the building inspections department.

"I am extremely proud of our team," said County Manager Eddie Madden. "Many have signed up for their first time to participate in an event like this. When we called upon them, they volunteered very quickly."

While Juhl and King were deployed to Polk County, the rest of the county employees arrived in Catawba County around 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Speaking with The News Reporter just before 3 p.m., Madden said that the team had received a briefing in Catawba County and was traveling to Buncombe County, where they expected to receive specific assignments. He said the delegation would likely be divided among three locations: Black Mountain, UNC Asheville and a health and human services facility.

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Local Storm Response: Firefighters Deploy, Businesses Collect Donations for Western NC

September 29, 2024 | Pilot, The (Southern Pines, NC) Author: Staff report | Section: News | 1726 Words OpenURL Link

The Moore County community has turned out to support its neighbors in the North Carolina Mountains, assisting in relief and recovery efforts amid devastation left by Hurricane Helene.

Firefighters from Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst and West End headed to the mountains on Sunday morning, following an Emergency Deployment Order issued by the State of North Carolina. That order, put into effect for assistance and to relieve exhausted crews, is in effect until Oct. 4 but could change.

A four-firefighter engine crew departed from West End Fire and Rescue, and two Southern Pines, one Pinehurst and one Aberdeen firefighter left in an Aberdeen Engine with a Southern Pines pick-up truck as a support vehicle. They will be part of a five-engine task force from around the state.

Southern Pines Fire Chief Mike Cameron said fire departments across the state participate in a "rostering program," where if an area isn't impacted, the local crews provide support to areas in need.

Cameron said Moore County crews received their "mission" on Saturday night, leaving early on Sunday morning for McDowell County, where they will be assigned to stations to relieve the local firefighters.

"We're basically going to handle their calls," Cameron said. "If it's medical calls, fire calls — anything they get."

Following a check in on Monday, Cameron said the firefighters from Moore County have set up at the Marion Fire Department, relieving the local firefighters for at least one night.

He said the team has been clearing roads and responded to a handful of calls. He said a lot of roads in the Marion area have at least one lane open for travel, but there are still a lot of downed trees and power lines.

From his understanding, there is also a fair amount of structural damage and most of the area is without power. He added that the firefighters are "not in the worst of it."

"Our folks seem to be doing well," Cameron said. "They are just clearing roads and filling the gap."

He also said Southern Pines received another request to send about five police officers west on Monday to help with security at donation drop-off and pick-up sites.

"I know there's a lot of coordination on the state level for supplies to go to the western part of the state," he said.

Gov. Roy Cooper has also deployed the NC National Guard, with "410 troops and 146 vehicles, including high water vehicles, to help with rescues, transport patients to medical care and deliver personnel and equipment to help with storm response," according to a statement from that office.

Much of western North Carolina remains cut off from help and supplies following catastrophic flooding from Hurricane Helene. As many communication lines have been destroyed, the scope of the devastation has yet to be fully realized.

On Monday morning, Cooper's office announced that "more than 500,000 customers remain without power, down from a peak of more than one million."

On Sunday, President Joe Biden granted Cooper's request for a Federal Major Disaster Declaration for Tropical Storm Helene, providing immediate federal help for 25 North Carolina counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, according to a statement.

"The people in western North Carolina are hurting from this devastating storm and we are all working to get resources to people as fast as we can," said Cooper in a statement. "We have deployed rescue teams, transportation crews, water, mobile kitchens and more. This is going to be a long-term recovery and this federal declaration will help us respond."

The counties in the declaration are Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey Counties as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Cooper's office has also shared that hundreds of people have been rescued via swiftwater and helicopter crews. On Sunday, Cooper confirmed 11 North Carolinians have died due to impacts from Helene.

Buncombe County, which includes Asheville, later stated there have been 30 confirmed deaths in its county. Emergency scanner traffic on Sunday indicated dozens of bodies have been pulled from landslides in Buncombe County, with helicopters taking them to an undisclosed site. The total number of casualties is not yet known.

Locals Show Up

Locally, Moore County residents are collecting donations. Groups are organizing to make bulk deliveries — some planning to travel the few roads that are open or the routes they can cobble together. Pilots are coordinating deliveries by air, which is the only way some communities can be accessed.

According to a Moore County Regional Airport representative, a helicopter and two aircrafts delivered items on Saturday. On Sunday, about eight planes were scheduled to take goods west.

Around noon Sunday, horse trainer and equestrian coach Amanda Delgado was loading up a 36-foot horse trailer with supplies donated to Red's Corner. Collection boxes were placed outside the Southern Pines business early Saturday morning, and patrons had donated enough items to nearly fill Delgado's trailer.

Delgado moved to Vass, just behind the Woodlake community, five years ago. When the Woodlake Dam collapsed, she and her husband were forced to "scoop up everything they had in their arms" and evacuate for 10 days.

"We know what it's like to be displaced from our homes and have to evacuate, leave everything behind and not know what will be there when you get back," she said. "During hurricanes Matthew and Florence, the west helped us so much, so now I feel like it's our turn."

Delgado will be delivering supplies to collection centers established at the Statesville and Concord airports, watching road conditions posted on DriveNC.gov to plan her route. Once there, pilots will air drop supplies to rural areas, currently accessible only by air.

"As long as we have the donations, I plan on hauling out as much as I can," she said, adding that tarps, water and fuel cans are among the most requested items.

Around 2 p.m. on Sunday, Slim Thompson, Rob Hedge and Noah White with Sovereign Aerospace were at the Moore County Regional Airport, packing food, lifestraws, toiletries and tools for getting communications up.

White, 15, is a pilot in training. He said he's helping because, "it's for a great cause."

Thompson, who also flew supplies on Saturday, said they plan to make two drops, one at the emergency communications center and another at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

He said there is a great need to get communications up to aid with search and rescue efforts. He said the last few days have really been focused on organizing, especially for people like him running supplies.

As communications come up and airport runways become operable, Thompson said more relief supplies will be able to get to the people in the mountains, pointing to the full lobby at the front of the airport.

But when talking about the local efforts to support people in the west, he emphasized that donations are good, but now is not the time for untrained individuals to drive there and lend a hand. Thompson said that just creates more people for the rescue crews to keep an eye on.

"There will be a need for a civilian Dunkirk," Thompson said, referencing the boats that helped evacuate soldiers from Dunkirk, France during World War II. "But not right now."

As major roads begin opening in the mountains, the state Department of Transportation continues to tell people to not travel in western North Carolina.

"There are many closed roads that are not listed on this site as many areas are not able to report at this time," according to a warning on driveNC.gov. "All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed and non-emergency travel is prohibited."

Cameron said he's heard that people are being stopped at barricades and told to turn around if not emergency responders with mission numbers.

A collection site set up at Cox's Double Eagle Harley Davidson over the weekend sent four trailers full of supplies west as of Sunday around 3 p.m., with a few trailers scheduled to go out by Monday morning. That site closed on Sunday.

Traci Cortes, a volunteer with Eagle Springs Fire Department, said all of the goods are going to a coordination site in McDowell County to then be dispersed to specific areas. A local group, Just Moore Jeeps, has been helping with transport.

Cortes and other volunteers emphasized the need for tarps, adult diapers and lifestraws. Around 3 p.m., they received a pallet of water bottles and about a dozen gas cans.

A West End Fire Department pick-up truck and trailer was preparing to head west at that time, loaded with supplies. Firefighter Erick Duplessis said the department plans to go to Banner Elk — or as close as they can get.

"We plan to take it to harder hit areas," Duplessis said. "We will go as far as we can go."

Red's Corner's donation boxes will be in place for the next few weeks, along with other drop-off locations across the county, including West End Fire & Rescue. The Moore County Regional Airport in Carthage will continue to collect goods in its front office.

Moore Equine Feed and Supply, on May Street in Southern Pines, has opened an account for monetary donations, which will be used to send pet and livestock supplies west.

"People are going to be impacted for weeks and months, and if we as a community can keep pushing to keep it going, we can keep helping," said Delgado. "The rural communities are going to need it most."

Kalawi Farm plans to hold a fundraiser on Oct. 3 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., selling hot dog plates. All of the funds will go to Baptists on Mission, which is helping with relief efforts.

Aberdeen Coca Cola Bottling Plant has set up a fund for purchasing drinks. To donate, call the main office at (910)

944-2305. General Manager Tony Carlisle said the plan right now is to collect donations and purchase drinks, including water and sports drinks, mid-week to send west.

For updates on drop-off sites, visit the Major Events & Hazards Group on Facebook, which has also served as a spot for crowdsourced updates on status and relief efforts.

Monetary donations can also be made through the American Red Cross, which has disaster relief teams on the ground. With money, organizations can purchase exactly what is needed.

Here's a list of resources for information:

- * Crowdsourced updates on status and relief efforts: NC Weather Authority on Facebook
- * Official updates on evacuations, water levels and shelters: https://www.readync.gov/
- * To be connected with help through the United Way: https://nc211.org/ Copyright 2024, The Pilot LLC, All Rights Reserved.

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Staff report, 'Local Storm Response: Firefighters Deploy, Businesses Collect Donations for Western NC', *Pilot, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE6908234D8960



Moore Mobilizes for WNC

September 29, 2024 | Pilot, The (Southern Pines, NC) Author: ANA RISANO || Staff Writer ana@thepilot.com | Section: News | 1414 Words OpenURL Link

Moore County has turned out to support its neighbors in the North Carolina mountains, assisting in relief and recovery efforts amid devastation left by Hurricane Helene.

As new details have emerged of the devastation, the needs and rescue and recovery efforts are shifting with most of western North Carolina closed off except for emergency personnel.

Locally, police and fire staff have been called to provide assistance and relieve exhausted crews in the mountains. Firefighters from Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst and West End headed to the mountains on Sunday morning, following an emergency deployment order issued by the state. That order is in effect until Oct. 4 but could change.

Southern Pines Fire Chief Mike Cameron said fire departments across the state participate in a "rostering program," where if an area isn't impacted, the local crews provide support to areas in need.

The firefighters headed to McDowell County, where they were assigned to the Marion Fire Department to relieve the local firefighters. West End Fire & Rescue also posted on Facebook that more staff made it to Banner Elk.

Following a check-in on Monday morning, Cameron said the firefighters from Moore County have been clearing roads and responded to a handful of calls. He said a lot of roads in the Marion area have at least one lane open for travel, but there are still a lot of downed trees and power lines.

"Our folks seem to be doing well," Cameron said. "They are just clearing roads and filling the gap."

On Monday afternoon, the Southern Pines Police Department was also called to send five officers into Buncombe County.

"(The) officers will be asked to provide security with food and water distribution sites, assist with crowd control, provide fuel escorts and general patrolling of the business district to prevent looting," Chief Nick Polidori said in an email.

The officers are expected to be in Asheville for about four days. Depending on needs by western law enforcement agencies, he said they may deploy a second team.

Amanda Delgado has brought two 36-foot horse trailers full of donated supplies from Red's Corner to a main drop spot at the Statesville Regional Airport as of Monday. She said she has heard from pilots and paramedics that there are security and safety issues as a result of Helene's devastation.

Moore County residents have been collecting donations since the weekend, with groups organizing bulk deliveries by road and pilots coordinating deliveries by air — the only way some communities can be accessed.

Delgado, a horse trainer, equestrian coach and retired Army medic, had gone to another drop spot set-up at the Concord-Padgett Regional on Sunday but was rerouted to Statesville because of security issues.

By Sunday night, she heard that mostly helicopters are going in because of safety and accessibility. She said it was safe traveling to Concord and Statesville but was instructed to not go past Statesville.

"Pilots, EMS, all the leadership personnel are directing people to go to Statesville as a drop-off point for supplies,"

Delgado said. "They are urging people not to drive into Asheville and Boone. It is not safe there."

As major roads begin reopening in the mountains, the state Department of Transportation continues to tell people to not travel in western North Carolina.

"There are many closed roads that are not listed on this site as many areas are not able to report at this time," according to a warning on driveNC.gov. "All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed and non-emergency travel is prohibited."

Cameron and Delgado said they've heard that people are being stopped at barricades and told to turn around if not emergency responders.

The closer Delgado drove to Statesville, her phone would alarm roughly every 10 minutes, saying "Travel prohibited. Do not enter." She said there were also signs up saying western North Carolina travel is prohibited.

"We need to tell people how bad it is. We need to tell people that it is dangerous to drive into Asheville and Boone. Civilians do not need to be going."

Because of her background, Delgado asked to help provide medical aid but was told a big focus currently is recovery. She said the reported death toll is not reflective of the "catastrophic devastation" some pilots have reported.

On Monday, Gov. Roy Cooper's office confirmed 11 North Carolinians have died due to impacts from Helene. Buncombe County, which includes Asheville, later stated there have been 30 confirmed deaths in its county. Emergency scanner traffic on Sunday indicated authorities had recovered several bodies from landslides in Buncombe County, with helicopters taking them to an undisclosed site. More accurate casualty counts are being hampered by poor communication and difficulty in rescuers getting around.

"The destruction is truly beyond comprehension. Pilots who have done 25 years in the military have said this is worse than (Hurricane) Katrina," Delgado said. "They said they have been in war zones and have never seen anything like they've seen over the last few days."

According to a Moore County Airport representative, a helicopter and several aircrafts have delivered items west over the weekend. Around 2 p.m. on Sunday, Slim Thompson, Rob Hedge and Noah White with Sovereign Aerospace were at the Moore County Airport, packing food, water filters, toiletries and tools for getting communications up.

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"People are going to be impacted for weeks and months, and if we as a community can keep pushing to keep it going, we can keep helping," said Delgado. "The rural communities are going to need it most."

More information:

- * Kalawi Farm plans to hold a fundraiser on Oct. 3 from 6-8 p.m., selling hot dog plates. All of the funds will go to Baptists on Mission, which is helping with relief efforts.
- * Aberdeen Coca Cola Bottling Plant has set up a fund for purchasing drinks. To donate, call the main office at (910) 944-2305.
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Updates are also available on:

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Managing Editor Abbi Overfelt contributed to this article.

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Local Storm Response: Firefighters Deploy, Businesses Collect Donations

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On Monday afternoon, the Southern Pines Police Department was also called to send five officers into Buncombe County.

"(The) officers will be asked to provide security with food and water distribution sites, assist with crowd control, provide fuel escorts and general patrolling of the business district to prevent looting," Chief Nick Polidori said in an email.

The officers are expected to be in Asheville for about four days. Depending on needs by western law enforcement agencies, he said they may deploy a second team.

Amanda Delgado has brought two 36-foot horse trailers full of donated supplies from Red's Corner to a main drop spot at the Statesville Regional Airport as of Monday. She said she has heard from pilots and paramedics that there are security and safety issues as a result of Helene's devastation.

Moore County residents have been collecting donations since the weekend, with groups organizing bulk deliveries by road and pilots coordinating deliveries by air — the only way some communities can be accessed.

Delgado, a horse trainer, equestrian coach and retired Army medic, had gone to another drop spot set-up at the Concord-Padgett Regional on Sunday but was rerouted to Statesville because of security issues.

By Sunday night, she heard that mostly helicopters are going in because of safety and accessibility. She said it was safe traveling to Concord and Statesville but was instructed to not go past Statesville.

"Pilots, EMS, all the leadership personnel are directing people to go to Statesville as a drop-off point for supplies,"

Delgado said. "They are urging people not to drive into Asheville and Boone. It is not safe there."

As major roads begin reopening in the mountains, the state Department of Transportation continues to tell people to not travel in western North Carolina.

"There are many closed roads that are not listed on this site as many areas are not able to report at this time," according to a warning on driveNC.gov. "All roads in Western North Carolina should be considered closed and non-emergency travel is prohibited."

Cameron and Delgado said they've heard that people are being stopped at barricades and told to turn around if not emergency responders.

The closer Delgado drove to Statesville, her phone would alarm roughly every 10 minutes, saying "Travel prohibited. Do not enter." She said there were also signs up saying western North Carolina travel is prohibited.

"We need to tell people how bad it is. We need to tell people that it is dangerous to drive into Asheville and Boone. Civilians do not need to be going."

Because of her background, Delgado asked to help provide medical aid but was told a big focus currently is recovery. She said the reported death toll is not reflective of the "catastrophic devastation" some pilots have reported.

On Monday, Gov. Roy Cooper's office confirmed 11 North Carolinians have died due to impacts from Helene. Buncombe County, which includes Asheville, later stated there have been 30 confirmed deaths in its county. Emergency scanner traffic on Sunday indicated authorities had recovered several bodies from landslides in Buncombe County, with helicopters taking them to an undisclosed site. More accurate casualty counts are being hampered by poor communication and difficulty in rescuers getting around.

"The destruction is truly beyond comprehension. Pilots who have done 25 years in the military have said this is worse than (Hurricane) Katrina," Delgado said. "They said they have been in war zones and have never seen anything like they've seen over the last few days."

According to a Moore County Airport representative, a helicopter and several aircrafts have delivered items west over the weekend. Around 2 p.m. on Sunday, Slim Thompson, Rob Hedge and Noah White with Sovereign Aerospace were at the Moore County Airport, packing food, water filters, toiletries and tools for getting communications up.

White, 15, is a pilot in training. He said he's helping because "it's for a great cause."

Thompson, who also flew supplies on Saturday, said they plan to make two drops, one at the emergency communications center and another at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

He said there is a need to get communications up to aid with search and rescue efforts. He said the last few days have been focused on organizing, especially for people like him running supplies.

As communications come up and airport runways become operable, Thompson said more relief supplies will be able to get to the people in the mountains, pointing to the full lobby at the front of the airport.

But when talking about the local efforts to support people in the west, he emphasized that donations are good, but now is not the time for untrained individuals.

"There will be a need for a civilian Dunkirk," Thompson said, referencing the boats that helped evacuate soldiers from Dunkirk, France during World War II. "But not right now."

A collection site set up at Cox's Double Eagle Harley Davidson over the weekend sent four trailers full of supplies west as of Sunday around 3 p.m., with a few trailers scheduled to go out by Monday morning. That site closed on Sunday.

Traci Cortes, a volunteer with the Eagle Springs Fire Department, said all of the goods are going to a coordination site in McDowell County to then be dispersed to specific areas. A local group, Just Moore Jeeps, has been helping with transport.

Cortes and other volunteers emphasized the need for tarps, adult diapers and water filters. Around 3 p.m., they received a pallet of water bottles and about a dozen gas cans.

A West End Fire Department pick-up truck and trailer was preparing to head west at that time, loaded with supplies. Firefighter Erick Duplessis said the department plans to go to Banner Elk — or as close as they can get.

"We plan to take it to harder hit areas," Duplessis said. "We will go as far as we can go."

Red's Corner's donation boxes will be in place for the next few weeks, along with other drop-off locations across the county, including West End Fire & Rescue. The Moore County Airport in Carthage will continue to collect goods in its front office.

Moore Equine Feed and Supply, on May Street in Southern Pines, has opened an account for monetary donations, which will be used to send pet and livestock supplies west.

"People are going to be impacted for weeks and months, and if we as a community can keep pushing to keep it going, we can keep helping," said Delgado. "The rural communities are going to need it most."

More information:

- * Kalawi Farm plans to hold a fundraiser on Oct. 3 from 6-8 p.m., selling hot dog plates. All of the funds will go to Baptists on Mission, which is helping with relief efforts.
- * Aberdeen Coca Cola Bottling Plant has set up a fund for purchasing drinks. To donate, call the main office at (910) 944-2305.
- * For updates on drop-off sites, visit the Major Events and Hazards Group on Facebook, which has also served as a spot for crowdsourced updates on status and relief efforts.
- * Monetary donations can also be made through the American Red Cross, which has disaster relief teams on the ground. With money, organizations can purchase exactly what is needed.

Updates are also available on:

- * NC Weather Authority on Facebook
- * Official updates on evacuations, water levels and shelters: https://www.readync.gov/
- * The United Way: https://nc211.org/

Managing Editor Abbi Overfelt contributed to this article.

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Citation (aglc Style)

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEF9CF10A788D8>



God's Pit Crew assisting Hurricane Helene victims in multiple areas

September 29, 2024 | RockinghamNow (NC)
Author: CARLY BRASHEARS Director, Media & Public Relations, God's Pit Crew Section: Rockingham Now | 377 Words
OpenURL Link

DANVILLE, VA. – Critical relief products traveled through the night and were delivered to Madison Church of God in Madison, Florida, early this morning. Additional God's Pit Crew trucks delivered miscellaneous loads of Blessing Buckets, bottled water, cleaning supplies, snack foods and other supplies to Mayo, Ocala, and Naples, Florida – as well as Sylvania and Valdosta, Georgia. Damage caused by Helene spans throughout the entire Southeast, with many affected areas still inaccessible due to flood waters and washed-out roads.

Local volunteers with the God's Pit Crew Immediate Disaster Response Team spent Saturday serving Dry Fork, Virginia, cleaning up damage caused by a confirmed tornado in the small community. An additional volunteer crew will be onsite in Galax, Virginia, beginning Monday, September 30, to assist with needs in that area caused by torrential rain and extreme wind gusts.

God's Pit Crew volunteers and truck loads of equipment will depart from the Virginia-based headquarters on Monday, September 30, and travel to Valdosta, Georgia, to assist with damaged tree removal and flood cleanup through Sunday, October 13.

The ministry continues to monitor flood ravaged areas in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and beyond. At this time, the majority of areas affected by flood waters are inaccessible as the currents recede, but God's Pit Crew intends to assist those areas when able.

"Millions of people are experiencing heartbreak from this tragedy, but we have faith that God will provide and lead us where we can help," stated God's Pit Crew Immediate Disaster Response Coordinator Chris Chiles.

All relief efforts by the nonprofit, for-impact organization are made possible through the generous contributions made to the ministry. As continuous truckloads of product deploy, the need is great for donations and volunteers to continue aiding as many people as possible.

For those looking to assist with God's Pit Crew's disaster response initiatives, volunteer and donation opportunities can be found by visiting GodsPitCrew.org or by calling and speaking to a representative at (434) 836-4472.

About God's Pit Crew

God's Pit Crew is a non-profit, faith-based disaster response team of volunteers who wish to serve others. When disaster strikes, God's Pit Crew is there to deliver hope, healing, and restoration to hurting people in times of disaster. God's Pit Crew is headquartered in Danville, Virginia, and provides disaster response around the globe.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

CARLY BRASHEARS Director, Media & Public Relations, God's Pit Crew, 'God's Pit Crew assisting Hurricane Helene victims in multiple areas', *RockinghamNow* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE6803A4F5C2F0>



Fla. boaters seek refuge, hope during the hurricane

September 29, 2024 | Star, The (Shelby, NC) Author: Michael Loria and Trevor Hughes; USA TODAY Section: News | 532 Words Page: A5 OpenURL Link

Winds whipped more than 100mph. Waters threatened hundreds of miles of Florida coast. And Philip Tooke managed to punch out a terse but frantic message from his phone as he sat riding out Hurricane Helene – not in his house, but on his boat.

"Lost power," he wrote from St. Marks, 30miles south of Tallahassee and 20 miles from where Hurricane Helene hit the mouth of the Aucilla River. But, he adds: "Still floating."

Tooke, the 63-year-old owner of a local seafood market, and his brother were weathering the hurricane aboard their fishing boats.

The pair are among the Floridians who took to the water for their survival. They did so despite evacuation orders made ahead of the Category 4 hurricane and grim warnings that foretold death for those who stayed.

"It's not going to be pleasant down here," Tooke, a stone crab fisherman, had told USA TODAY about riding out the storm on his boat hours ahead of landfall. "If we don't get that direct hit, we'll be OK."

Helene nearly hit the Tooke brothers dead on. The pair said they also rode out Hurricane Debby, a Category 1, aboard their boats in early August.

Coast Guard officials strongly discourage people from staying aboard their vessels through a hurricane. But there are over 1million registered recreational vessels in Florida, according to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Coast Guard officials said many owners stay on their boats.

"This is something that occurs often. Many people do live on their sailing vessels and they don't have much elsewhere to go," Petty Officer Eric Rodriguez told USA TODAY. "More often than not we have to wait for a storm to subside before sending our assets into a Category 4 storm."

Ben Monaghan and Valerie Cristo, who had a boat crushed by Debby, told local radio they were planning to ride out Helene aboard a sailboat at Gulfport Municipal Marina. Monaghan told Florida radio station WMNF that his boat collided with another vessel during the hurricane and he had to be rescued by the fire department.

Law enforcement in Florida is especially prepared to make water rescues, outfitting agencies with rescue boats and specially crafted "swamp buggies," according to Lt. Todd Olmer, a public affairs officer at the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

But once the storm reaches a certain intensity, no rescues can be made, Olmer warned.

"The marine environment is a dangerous environment where waters can rise, wind and current dictate the day," Olmer said. "And when you get in trouble on a boat during a storm, first responders cannot get to you in a timely manner due to the nature of Mother Nature always winning."

Further down the coast in Tampa Bay, a man named Jay also said he prepared to ride out the storm on the sailboat where he lives.

"Anything that happens was meant to be, it was all preordained," Jay told News Nation. "If I wind up on land and my

boat winds up crushed, then that just means I wasn't meant to be on it."

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Michael Loria and Trevor Hughes, USA TODAY, 'Fla. boaters seek refuge, hope during the hurricane', *Star, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 A5 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE4881701E09F8



Sign up for text message updates and crucial information in Hurricane Helene's aftermath

September 29, 2024 | StarNews (Wilmington, NC) Author: Wilmington StarNews Staff Report | Section: News | 246 Words OpenURL Link

As the Southeast grapples with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, all of us at the USA TODAY Network are dedicated to doing everything we can to keep you and your communities informed.

We know many folks from Florida to North Carolina to Georgia are currently without essential services, like water and power and cell phone service has been an issue for many in the storm's wake.

As a resource in these tough times, we are manning a text message service to bring you and your loved ones the latest updates on Hurricane Helene, connect you with resources and answer any questions you might have. This will give you you direct access to reporters and editors in the newsroom who can help you find information about ongoing weather warnings, local services and more.

Our journalists are based around the USA TODAY Network, so we can provide updates and answers for anyone following the aftermath of Helene.

We will do our best to answer every question individually, but depending on volume of inquiries we may not be able to get to every message right away. It is important to note that we are not an emergency services line, so if you have an emergency please call 911 or your local authorities right away.

To sign up, submit your number below or text 'Hello' to (239) 241-6343. If you have friends in the area, please feel free to share this phone number with them so they can sign up for updates as needed.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Wilmington StarNews Staff Report, 'Sign up for text message updates and crucial information in Hurricane Helene's aftermath', *StarNews* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE9A87B8B18CCO>



Many schools cancelled; some will offer food, showers to residents

September 29, 2024 | Stokes News, The (Walnut Cove, NC) Author: Ryan Kelly ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com| Section: Mtairy | 469 Words OpenURL Link

Hundreds of homes in Surry County remain in the dark Sunday evening following Hurricane Helene's visit last week. According to ReadyNC.gov there were 2,546 residents of Surry County still in the dark as of 7:30 p.m. Sunday evening.

In response to some residents being without power or having difficulty getting around, most local schools are closed Monday, Sept. 30 with the exception of Elkin City Schools.

Surry County Schools will be closed to students for classes on Monday according to a statement from the district, "Out of an abundance of caution, all Surry County Schools will remain closed for students, Monday, September 30. Tomorrow will be an optional teacher workday."

"In addition, Surry County Schools will be opening East Surry, North Surry, and Surry Central High Schools for our families who are without power from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, September 30. Child nutrition staff will be onsite to serve meals. You are welcome to come by for a meal, take a shower, and use the restrooms. Our locker rooms will also be available for your convenience."

Mount Airy City Schools will be closed Monday, and the district announced there will be meal service for children and adults available.

"Due to power and internet outages across our schools and area, we will be canceling school on September 30. There will also be no after-school activities. We want nothing more than to bring students back into our buildings but there are many factors preventing that from being the safest option at this time.

"Sit-down lunch meals will be available for children 18 and under for free. Adults can buy a lunch for \$4.50. Lunches will be served in BH Tharrington Primary cafeteria and Mount Airy High School's Commons Area from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and those meals will need to be eaten in the cafeteria of the school based on regulation.

Elkin City Schools will resume a normal schedule Monday. They released a statement that read, "We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the power companies and the cleanup crews for their incredible efforts during Hurricane Helene."

"The hard work and dedication ensured that our community was safe and that we are able to return to a regular scheduled school day."

Wilkes County Schools will be closed on Monday. The district said, "First and foremost, we hope that you and your family are safe following this dangerous storm. Wilkes County Schools will be closed for students September 30. This will allow us to assess conditions at our schools and in the community and determine when students can safely return."

"Tomorrow will be an optional teacher workday. Employees who do not feel comfortable traveling should not do so. We will work closely with those who cannot safely return to work tomorrow."

Alleghany County schools and Galax City Schools in Carroll County, Va. will also be closed Monday.

• Citation (aglc Style)

Ryan Kelly ryan.kelly@mtairynews.com, 'Many schools cancelled; some will offer food, showers to residents', *Stokes News, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFA6E4C3726C8>



Emergency personnel continue recovery efforts as Watauga sees catastrophic damage

September 29, 2024 | Tribune, The (Elkin, NC) Author: Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com| Section: Apg Sister Paper| 528 Words OpenURL Link

WATAUGA — Emergency services personnel are confirming the catastrophic damage in Watauga County as recovery efforts remain underway.

"Immediate swift water rescues have tapered off," Watauga County Emergency Services Director Holt said. "We are operating to get roads open and get access to folks that have been cut off."

On the second day since the remnants of Hurricane Helene decimated the area, Holt said they are validating how bad the destruction is.

"We are validating the information we have received of catastrophic damage," Holt said.

WCES will start working on damage assessments on Sunday, but their main concern is life safety and reaching isolated parts of the community.

"There are a lot of people that are isolated," Holt said.

Holt said they are creating lists of missions to prioritize for air assets when available.

"The National Guard is committed all over Western North Carolina," Holt said. "They are focusing right now on pulling people out of places that are still in flood waters. We do have missions, and we are working to get communications to people in isolated areas."

WCES is also working with commercial telecom providers to determine what they need to get their infrastructure back online.

"We are talking by radio to fire departments and are relaying a lot of information back to us, but they are having trouble getting to places as well," Holt said.

Holt said requests have been made across the region to get water and other supplies, which are on the way. It is just slow because of road conditions all across the region. Multiple tractor-trailer loads of water are on the way.

WCES will push out information on distribution sites throughout the county as soon as possible.

"We are working 24-hour operations," Holt said. "Just know we are coming. We know that it's taking time to get there. The meteorology community has said this is western North Carolina's Hugo or Katrina. That's the level of destruction we have. We are getting resources there as fast as we can."

The National Guard has two large trucks in Watauga County to transport water to areas that only those types of vehicles can reach. Two more trucks are on the way.

"The biggest limitation right now is getting the stuff up here," Holt said.

Individuals who want to donate their time to help in the recovery should get on the roster with an organization like Samaritan's Purse or other organizations that are helping that way they have accountability.

Baptist on Mission and Samaritan's Purse will open recovery centers where people can sign up for a list and have

crews come help them get access, clean up their area, and start removing debris.

Appalachian Medical Reserve Corps has launched a Non-Emergency Information Call Center, which can be reached at (828) 263-4178. This initiative aims to divert all non-emergency calls from the 911 system, ensuring that lifethreatening emergencies receive prompt attention.

The Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation is accepting donations to help with community and business relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene's impact on the High Country. Gifts can be made at this link, and the Chamber will distribute funds locally to businesses and community efforts as needs are further assessed throughout Watauga County over the days and weeks ahead: www.boonechamber.com/foundation.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Moss Brennan moss.brennan@wataugademocrat.com, 'Emergency personnel continue recovery efforts as Watauga sees catastrophic damage', *Tribune, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BEFAB170067EA0>



Red Cross activated to help with relief efforts from Helene aftermath: Here are ways you can help, donate

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports| Section: Community | 82 Words OpenURL Link

The American Red Cross has been fully activated to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, including areas in and around the Tryon area.

Red Cross officials expect that it will take days to understand the full scope and magnitude of the storm.

The organization recommends three things you can do right now to help people affected:

https://www.redcross.org/donate/donation.html/

The post Red Cross activated to help with relief efforts from Helene aftermath: Here are ways you can help, donate appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE763E71800AF8>



Need to report someone missing in aftermath of Helene? Here is some information from state officials.

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 128 Words OpenURL Link

As recovery efforts continue in Tryon, Polk County, and surrounding areas in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene, officials are urging residents to report missing loved ones and request welfare checks through proper channels.

For those seeking information on missing family members or friends, state emergency officials advise calling 211 to report a missing person or to request a welfare check. However, it is important to note that 211 is not an emergency service. Any urgent or life-threatening situations should be directed to 911.

If you are located outside of North Carolina, you can still access the NC 211 call center by dialing (888) 892-1162.

The post Need to report someone missing in aftermath of Helene? Here is some information from state officials. appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Staff Reports, 'Need to report someone missing in aftermath of Helene? Here is some information from state officials.', *Tryon Daily Bulletin, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE763E8D608B98>



Major disaster declared after Hurricane Helene floods North Carolina; here's how to apply for recovery assistance

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 139 Words OpenURL Link

North Carolina has officially received a Major Disaster Declaration after the remnants of Hurricane Helene dumped more than a foot of rain over western portions of the state.

The declaration allows residents in Buncombe, Clay, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey Counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians eligible for Individual Assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Individual Assistance provides financial aid and services to eligible residents and households that have been affected by a disaster to assist with the recovery process.

People can begin applying for Individual Assistance online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, or by calling the application phone number at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. EST.

The post Major disaster declared after Hurricane Helene floods North Carolina; here's how to apply for recovery assistance appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Staff Reports, 'Major disaster declared after Hurricane Helene floods North Carolina; here's how to apply for recovery assistance', *Tryon Daily Bulletin, The*(online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE763E8FB37860>



Most Polk County residents still in dark after Helene destroys electrical infrastructure

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 101 Words OpenURL Link

The majority of residents in Polk County remained without electrical power Saturday night after devastating floods swept through the area Friday as the remnants of Hurricane Helene passed through the area.

More than 80 percent of customers in the county remained out according to a website that tracks electrical power companies across the country.

PowerOutage.us showed 16,589 of the county's 19,918 customers were without power as crews worked to clear debris in order to gain access to the damaged electrical power infrastructure.

The post Most Polk County residents still in dark after Helene destroys electrical infrastructure appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

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p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE4405077CB7B0>



Trade City Diner providing Wi-Fi, hugs as lifeline for residents affected by Tropical Storm Helene

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 216 Words OpenURL Link

In the wake of the recent storm that battered western North Carolina, the folks at the Trade Street Diner are stepping up to help the community recover.

In a heartfelt social media post, the business shared an aerial video of the affected region, announcing that aid is already arriving, with more support on the way.

"We love y'all," the post reads, expressing deep affection for the community. A staple in the area, the diner plans to offer free coffee, Wi-Fi, and hugs at their shop, allowing people to reconnect and communicate with loved ones.

In addition to providing a space for the community to gather, the business has also become a drop-off location for essential items such as pillows, blankets, and towels, which will be donated to a local shelter to support those displaced by the storm.

"Let's come together and cast a ray of sunshine," the post said. "The storm may have taken much away, but for those that have made it through, we still have each other."

The business owners expressed their gratitude for the support they have received from the community over the years, and their commitment to giving back during this difficult time.

The post Trade City Diner providing Wi-Fi, hugs as lifeline for residents affected by Tropical Storm Helene appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Reports, 'Trade City Diner providing Wi-Fi, hugs as lifeline for residents affected by Tropical Storm Helene', *Tryon Daily Bulletin, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view? p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE763E9BC855D0>



Columbus residents asked to immediately conserve water due to hurricane damage

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 105 Words OpenURL Link

The Town of Columbus is asking residents to conserve water immediately due to the damage to the town's infrastructure caused by the remnants of Hurricane Helene, officials said late Saturday.

"Due to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Helene, our water supply has been significantly impacted," town officials wrote on social media. "CONSERVE WATER IMMEDIATELY"

town officials wrote on social inicala.	CONSERVE WATER INTEDIATEET

Officials asked residents to restrict water usage to:	
- Essential drinking	
- Cooking	

- Hygiene

Town leaders also asked residents to:

- Avoid non-essential washing
- Limit shower time
- Fix leaks promptly
- Turn off taps while brushing teeth

The post Columbus residents asked to immediately conserve water due to hurricane damage appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Staff Reports, 'Columbus residents asked to immediately conserve water due to hurricane damage', *Tryon Daily Bulletin, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?
p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE99C0600E5450>



Emergency shelter, resources available at PCHS

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 81 Words OpenURL Link

COLUMBUS—An emergency shelter was set up at Polk County High School Saturday after the devastation of Tropical Storm Helene, offering refuge and resources to those who need it in Polk County.

Officials say that PCHS is in need of donations of pillows, sheets, towels, water, and any other items that can help as they help those affected.

Polk County High School is located at 1681 NC-108 in Columbus.

The post Emergency shelter, resources available at PCHS appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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• Citation (aglc Style)

Staff Reports, 'Emergency shelter, resources available at PCHS', *Tryon Daily Bulletin, The* (online), 29 Sep 2024 https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/19BE763E98CFE208



Mudslides destroy houses along Highway 176, shuts down road indefinitely

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: Community | 178 Words OpenURL Link

SALUDA — On Friday, during the torrential rain in the area due to Tropical Storm Helene, multiple mudslides occurred along Hwy. 176 between Tryon and Saluda.

Details are still emerging, but officials said mudslides destroyed some residences there.

Officials said rescue efforts took place Friday, with some continuing into Saturday.

The 3500 block of Hwy. 176 will be shut down for an extended time.

"We've cleared some trees and debris, but there's a lot of work to be done there," Tryon Fire Chief Josh Walton said.

Polk County Fire Marshal Bobby Arledge said these were the worst mudslides in the area that he's ever seen.

"This is way worse than 2018 [when massive mudslides occurred in the same area]," Arledge said. Extensive road clearing operations are underway.

Officials said approximately 50 to 75 residences have sustained partial or total damage due to multiple mudslides along Hwy 176.

Two urban search and rescue teams are working in Highway 176 area Saturday (New Bern and FDNY USAR, Homeland Security).

The post Mudslides destroy houses along Highway 176, shuts down road indefinitely appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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Emergency shelter, supplies and other resources: Here's a list of locations to get help

September 29, 2024 | Tryon Daily Bulletin, The (NC) Author: Staff Reports | Section: News | 137 Words OpenURL Link

COLUMBUS—An emergency shelter was set up at Polk County High School Saturday after the devastation of Tropical Storm Helene, offering refuge and resources to those who need it in Polk County.

Officials say that PCHS is in need of donations of pillows, sheets, towels, water, and any other items that can help as they help those affected.

Polk County High School is located at 1681 NC-108 in Columbus.

Tryon Town Hall is being converted into a community outreach center for water and emergency sustenance needs.

GASOLINE: Boiling Spring has gas, but there are lines. Use cash. (Reported by Explore Tryon)

FOOD: IGA is open right now; playing it by ear for how long; Use cash. (Reported by Explore Tryon)

The post Emergency shelter, supplies and other resources: Here's a list of locations to get help appeared first on The Tryon Daily Bulletin.

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