



North Carolina Hurricane Helene

September 25, 2024

Office of the Governor

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 814-2000
[home-page | NC Gov. Cooper](#)
[Governor Roy Cooper \(facebook.com\)](#)
[x.com/nc_governor](#)

Press Release on 9/25/24:

“Governor Cooper Declares State of Emergency Ahead of Hurricane Helene Activates National Guard and Deploys Swift-Water Teams in Advance of Storm

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:

- *Have multiple ways to receive emergency information, including watches and warnings. Make sure emergency alerts are enabled on your cell phone and monitor local news outlets and the National Weather Service.*
 - *Ensure that you have multiple ways to receive warnings, especially with the potential for severe storms to be moving through during nighttime hours.*
 - *Have an emergency plan. Know where you would go if you need to evacuate, especially if you live in a flood-prone area.*
 - *Gather emergency supplies or refresh your emergency kit. Visit [ReadyNC.gov](https://www.readync.gov) for info on how to build an emergency kit.*
 - *Never drive through flooded roadways or around barricades. Turn around. Don't drown.*
 - *Make sure you know where to seek shelter if a tornado warning is issued for your area.*
 - *Check to see if your local emergency management office offers emergency alert services for its residents. You can visit your county government website for more information.*
 - *Avoid unnecessary travel. If you do not need to drive, stay home. You can find current roadway conditions by visiting [DriveNC.Gov](https://www.driveNC.gov).*
- 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.”*

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

North Carolina Department of Public Safety
 1636 Gold Star Drive
 Raleigh, NC 27607
 (919) 825-2500

[NC DPS: Emergency Management](#)
[North Carolina Department of Public Safety | Raleigh NC | Facebook](#)
[NC Public Safety \(@NCPublicSafety\) / X](#)

To view County Emergency Management Agencies, visit [County Emergency Management Agencies | NC DPS](#)

American Red Cross

American Red Cross North Carolina Region
 2425 Park Road
 Charlotte, NC 28203
 (704) 376-1661

[North Carolina Region | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross North Carolina | Facebook](#)

Open Shelters:

The First Tee of Coastal Carolinas
445 Tarkin Court NW
Shallotte, NC 28470

To view a current list of open shelters, visit [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
(919) 715-7000

[N.C. Department of Transportation \(ncdot.gov\)](http://ncdot.gov)

[North Carolina Department of Transportation | Raleigh NC | Facebook](#)
[NCDOT \(@NCDOT\) / X](#)

For updated traffic conditions, visit [DriveNC.gov | North Carolina Traffic, Road Closures & Travel Information](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

NC 2-1-1

Call 2-1-1 or (888) 892-1162

Text your zip code to 898-211

[Home - NC 211](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

FEMA.gov

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/search-your-location)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](https://www.redcross.org/help-those-affected-by-disasters)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](https://www.weather.gov/alerts).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather. Please call or visit the website to locate your local chapter and open shelters.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](https://www.weather.com)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](https://www.safe-travel.com)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/traffic-and-road-closure-information)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.