



NOVEMBER 2024

THE SITUATION REPORT

*The Official Newsletter of
Greenville County Emergency
Management*



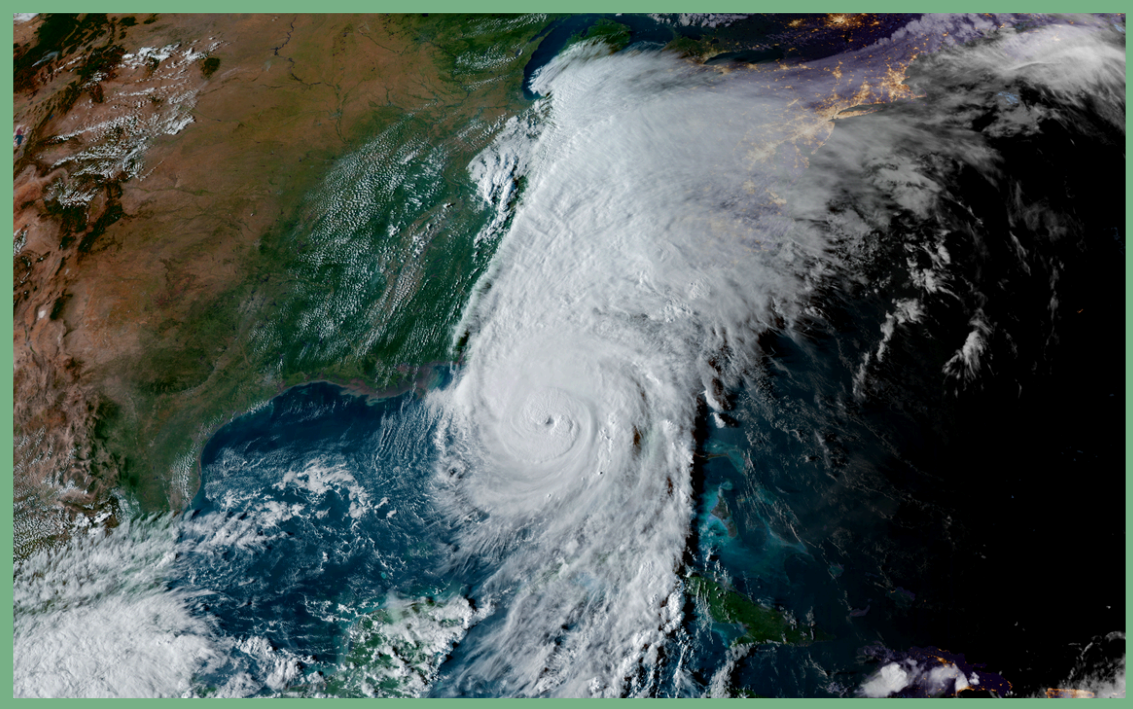
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HURRICANE HELENE SEPTEMBER 2024



GOES-16 satellite imagery of Hurricane Helene, courtesy of CSU/CIRA & NOAA

Helene made landfall near the Big Bend region of the Florida Gulf Coast as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 140 mph on the evening of Thursday, September 26, 2024. The storm rapidly advanced through the Southeast, affecting Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Before Helene's arrival, a predecessor rain event resulted in significant rainfall up to 10" in the span of two days.

In anticipation of both the predecessor rainfall and the impending arrival of Helene, Greenville County Emergency Management transitioned to OPCON 2 and began staffing the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Thursday, September 26, 2024.

When Helene reached South Carolina as a tropical storm, it caused extensive wind damage and power outages as numerous trees and power lines were downed. On Friday, September 27, 2024, the EOC moved to OPCON 1. Swiftwater rescue teams were deployed, and search and rescue efforts commenced. Greenville County received assistance from SC-Task Force 3, 4, & 5, LA-Task Force 2 & 3, and CA-Task Force 5. Fire engines and crews were also brought in from N. Myrtle Beach, Horry County, Florence County, St. John's, St. Andrew's, and Howe Springs Fire Department, and EMS crews from Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester County to bolster response efforts. Nearly all of Greenville County experienced power and internet outages lasting



Greenville City Fire Engines

power and internet outages lasting from several days to weeks. Some areas of the county, notably the northern region, received 20" of rainfall, with wind speeds of up to 80 mph.

The storm significantly impacted homes and businesses, with 649 properties suffering major damage and 55 destroyed. A general population shelter was set up to accommodate displaced citizens, while a medical needs shelter was established for individuals requiring specialized medical assistance. Multiple points of distribution (PODs) were established throughout Greenville County to supply essential relief items, such as food, water, and ice.

Emergency Management collaborated with various non-profit organizations, including Meals on Wheels, LiveWell, Salvation Army, United Way, and the American Red Cross, to deliver food and water to citizens in need. After the storm passed through Greenville County, Emergency Management was able to establish several Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams and Disaster Recovery Centers, working alongside SCEMD and FEMA to help residents apply for disaster assistance. Despite the unprecedented severity of the storm and its devastating consequences, the citizens of Greenville County demonstrated remarkable resilience. Greenville County Emergency Management would like to thank all of our partners across the county and state for their assistance in what is most likely the largest disaster this state has seen since Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The relationships and partnerships Greenville County built during the Helene response will continue to enhance our preparedness for future incidents.



Tree damage to Greenville County residence



Louisiana Task Force 2 speaks with members of the EOC



Hurricane Helene is the first activation of Greenville County's new Emergency Operations Center



Left to Right: Chief Brian Horton, Chief David Hindman, Greenville City Fire Department; Deputy Director Pierce Womack, Greenville County Emergency Management; Erik Hooks, FEMA Deputy Administrator (center); Director Jessica Stumpf, Greenville County Emergency Management; Director Kim Stenson, South Carolina Emergency Management Division; Brett Howard, FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer



Erik Hooks, FEMA Deputy Administrator, visits logistics warehouse at the Greenville County Convention Center



Greenville County Emergency Management Director, Jessica Stumpf, addresses the media during daily news conference highlighting response and recovery to Hurricane Helene



4 TIPS TO GOBBLE UP FOR A SAFE THANKSGIVING

1. STAY SAFE WHILE COOKING

- NEVER LEAVE YOUR PAN UNATTENDED.
- KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON HAND.
- KEEP FLAMMABLE ITEMS AWAY FROM THE STOVE.

2. PREVENT FOOD POISONING

- STORE AND SERVE FOOD AT THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE. FOOD SHOULD BE STORED BELOW 40 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT AND COOKED TO THE PROPER INTERNAL TEMPERATURE.
- REMEMBER TO REFRIGERATE FOOD WITHIN TWO HOURS OF PURCHASE OF PREPARATION.
- WASH UTENSILS, CUTTING BOARDS, AND COUNTERS THAT HAVE TOUCHED UNCOOKED MEAT.

3. HOME HEATING SAFETY

- IF YOU'RE USING WOOD STOVES, FIREPLACES OR SPACE HEATERS, KEEP THEM AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM FLAMMABLE MATERIALS AND NEVER LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED.
- MAINTAIN YOUR HEATING EQUIPMENT AND CHIMNEYS BY HAVING THEM CLEANED AND INSPECTED PRIOR TO USE EACH YEAR.

4. TRAVEL SAFETY

- IF YOU ARE USING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, SUCH AS A FLIGHT OR A TRAIN, CHECK THAT YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED FOR WHEREVER YOU ARE VISITING MAKE SURE TO CONSIDER WEATHER CONDITIONS.

WINTER WEATHER TIPS



LEARN HOW TO SHUT OFF WATER VALVES IN CASE A PIPE BURSTS.



ADD WINTER SUPPLIES LIKE ROCK SALT AND SHOVELS TO YOUR DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT.



HAVE YOUR VEHICLE SERVICED TO ENSURE IT IS PREPARED FOR THE WINTER SEASON.



GET REAL-TIME ROAD CONDITIONS BY DIALING 511 OR VISITING 511SC.ORG ONLINE.



EVEN THOUGH MANY COME WITH FUR COATS, ANIMALS CAN BE JUST AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FREEZING TEMPERATURES AS WE ARE. MAKE SURE YOUR PETS AND/OR LIVESTOCK HAVE A WARM PLACE INDOORS TO AVOID WINTER ELEMENTS.



[MORE INFO](#)



TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Course Name: Traffic Incident Management Training with Jeff Allen

When: November 07, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Greenville County Multi-purpose Room 225 S Pleasantburg Dr.
Greenville, SC 29607

[Register Here](#)

Course Name: PER-222 Public Safety CBRNE Response-Sampling Techniques and Guidelines

When: December 10, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Gantt Fire District 1201 White Horse Rd. Greenville, SC 29605

[Register Here](#)

Course Name: Advanced ICS - ICS 400

When: December 17-18, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Greenville County Multi-purpose Room 225 S Pleasantburg Dr.
Greenville, SC 29607

[Register Here](#)



Need to register for a training?

Greenville County Emergency Management Training: [Training & Exercises Calendar](#)
South Carolina Emergency Management Division Training: [Training Registration System](#).