

Western Carolinas and Northeast Georgia Impacts Associated with Hurricane Helene

Updates:

- 10/2/2024 - Initial issuance.

County Abbeville	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: None	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with large amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with roads blocked. Several homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 60% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into minor to moderate flood stages with roads flooded.</p>			

County Anderson	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 4 direct	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with large amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with roads blocked. Several homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 60% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into minor to moderate flood stages with roads flooded.</p>			

County Avery	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Avery County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County Buncombe	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: At least 57	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The French Broad River Basin had rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Buncombe County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Numerous locations reached a record three day rainfall totals, including the</p>			

Asheville Regional Airport. Large stretches of highways underwater across I-40 and US-74, as well as widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. 100% of the county was left and still is without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. As of Tuesday night (10/1) 57 deaths have been reported in the county, with more than 600 people still missing. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.

County Burke	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Catawba River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Burke County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County Caldwell	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Catawba River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet, which rivaled 1916 floods. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Caldwell County. Devastating flooding along Wilson Creek. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Several homes with roof damage from high wind gusts. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County Catawba	Injuries: At least 2	Fatalities: At least 1	Evacuations: At least 25
<p>Numerous trees down and reports of power outages across the county. Hickory airport (HKY) reported a peak gust of 52 mph. At least one fatality of a 4 year old and two injuries due to a car wreck in the heavy rain bands Friday morning. Minor flooding of streams across the county. High flows required flood gate openings at Oxford Dam, causing major flooding downstream along the Catawba River, including Lookout Shoals Lake. The lake crested 9.45 ft above full pool, the highest since the record set in 1940. This caused evacuations of numerous residents and major flooding of several homes, especially in the Carpenters Cove area along the lake.</p>			

County Cherokee	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: At least 12
<p>Widespread trees and power lines down across the county. Majority of the county was without power at the peak. Flash flooding across the county resulted in some closed roads. Major flooding on the Broad River near Blacksburg, crested two feet above record. This resulted in evacuations of a campground along the river. Board River high flows into the Gaston Shoals Hydro Project caused major flooding of the powerhouse and damaged their power generation turbines, likely requiring months to repair. Water approached houses near Cherokee Falls from Broad River high flows. Winds and downed trees caused major damage to the Duke Energy substation adjacent to the Gaston Shoals Hydro Project. A few low-lying roads along the Broad River were significantly inundated by major flooding and likely damaged.</p>			

County Chester	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 2	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Numerous trees down and reports of power outages across the county.</p>			

County Cleveland	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: At least 2	Evacuations: At least 12
<p>Widespread trees and power lines down across the county, several on houses and vehicles in the Shelby area. Majority of the county was without power at the peak. Flash flooding across the county resulted in some closed roads. Major flooding occurred on a rural reach of the Broad River near Boiling Springs, which crested one foot below record. This resulted in evacuations of campsites along the river, with floodwaters likely inundating a few homes. A few water rescues were required as a result of the flooding.</p>			

County Elbert	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Numerous trees and power lines down across the county, resulting in widespread power outages. Portions of the county were without power at the peak. Flash flooding across the county likely resulted in some closed roads.</p>			

County Franklin	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Numerous trees and power lines down across the county, resulting in widespread power outages. Portions of the county were without power at the peak. Flash flooding across the county likely resulted in some closed roads.</p>			

County Gaston	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: At least 9 (Voluntary)
<p>Numerous trees and powerlines were downed across the county, resulting in widespread power outages. Many roads were impassable due to downed trees. Devastating flooding occurred in Mt. Holly due to high flows downstream of Mountain Island Lake Dam along the Catawba River. Minor flooding occurred in Cramerton along the South Fork Catawba, a nearby gauge near Lowell, NC reported moderate flooding.</p>			

County Graham	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>High flows in creeks, streams, and mainstem rivers. Minor flooding was possible. Scattered trees and powerlines downed, resulting in some power outages.</p>			

County Greenville	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 6	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with extensive amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with large numbers of roads blocked, including major highways and interstates. A large number of homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Several fatalities also occurred due to tree falls. Minor structural damage from wind also occurred with roofing shingles blown off, car ports</p>			

blown away and fences/road signs blown down. Extensive damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 95% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into moderate to major flood stages with many roads flooded and water into some buildings. The Saluda River set a new record crest in western Greenville County. A brief tornado also impacted northwest Greenville County near the town of Cleveland with damage to trees and a shed.

County Greenwood	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 1	Evacuations: Unknown
----------------------------	----------------------	------------------	-------------------------

Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with extensive amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with large numbers of roads blocked, including major highways. A large number of homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Minor structural damage from wind also occurred with roofing shingles blown off, car ports blown away and fences/road signs blown down. Extensive damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 98% of the county without power. Minor to moderate flooding occurred across the county with some roads flooded.

County Habersham	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: None	Evacuations: Unknown
----------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

Widespread power outages from down trees and power lines across the county. 71% of the county were without power after the storm. Property damage included a few homes destroyed by large, falling trees. Minor structural damage from wind also occurred with roofing shingles, broken fences, and carports blown away. Minor to moderate flooding occurred across the county with some roads flooded.

County Hart	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Numerous trees and power lines down across the county, resulting in widespread power outages. Portions of the county were without power at the peak. Flash flooding across the county likely resulted in some closed roads.

County Haywood	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
--------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Pigeon River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in

recorded history across Haywood County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. Portions of I-40 near the Tennessee border were washed away by the Pigeon River running along the interstate. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.

County Henderson	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: At least 9	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The French Broad River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Henderson County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County Jackson	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Near-record flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Tuckasegee River had near-record flows. This was the most severe flooding since Tropical Storm Fred in 2021 across Jackson County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. Numerous homes and businesses were flooded, with a few likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, with damage to infrastructure likely. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides occurred, especially along steeper slopes. Widespread power outages were likely. Water rescues were likely across portions of the county.</p>			

County Laurens	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 3	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with extensive amounts of trees downed. Many trees</p>			

were uprooted or snapped with large numbers of roads blocked, including major highways. A large number of homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Minor structural damage from wind also occurred with roofing shingles blown off, car ports blown away and fences/road signs blown down. Extensive damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 99% of the county without power. Minor to moderate flooding occurred across the county with some roads flooded.

County Lincoln	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
Numerous trees and powerlines down across the county resulting in widespread power outages. Indian Creek near Laboratory crested over action stage.			

County Macon	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 1 direct	Evacuations: Unknown
Moderate flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Cullasaja River was just under major flood stage. Significant utility infrastructure in Highlands and within the Cullasaja River Valley. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of significant floods. Numerous trees and powerlines were downed. Some homes and businesses were flooded. Numerous road closures, with damage to infrastructure possible. There were a few landslides confirmed. Widespread power outages were likely. Drought conditions (D2 - severe) likely mitigated impacts. Water rescues were possible across portions of the county. An off duty officer drove into flood waters and drowned.			

County Madison	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The French Broad River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Madison County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.			

County McDowell	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Catawba River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across MCDowell County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County Mecklenburg	Injuries: At least 1	Fatalities: 1 direct	Evacuations: At least 100
<p>Devastating flooding along and downstream of Mountain Island Lake due to runoff along the Catawba River. At least 89 homes were damaged or destroyed, with at least 100 residents having to be evacuated. It is estimated that \$26 million in damages occurred, and recovery may take months. Minor flooding occurred elsewhere across the county. Numerous trees and powerlines were downed across the county. One tree fell on a home that resulted in a fatality and one life-threatening injury.</p>			

County Mitchell	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The North and South Toe River Basin had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across Mitchell County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.</p>			

County	Injuries:	Fatalities:	Evacuations:
--------	-----------	-------------	--------------

Oconee	Unknown	None	Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with large amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with roads blocked. Several homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 60% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into minor to moderate flood stages with roads flooded.</p>			

County Pickens	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: None	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with large amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with roads blocked. Several homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 60% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into minor to moderate flood stages with roads flooded.</p>			

County Polk	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: At least 1	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Major flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Green River and North Pacolet River likely had major and catastrophic flooding. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. Numerous homes and businesses were flooded, with a few likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, with damage to infrastructure likely. Multiple landslides occurred in the county, especially in the Saluda Gorge, claiming one life. Almost 100% of the county was left without power and water. Communities were essentially isolated from society due to significant roadway flooding. Some recovery efforts may take weeks to months.</p>			

County Rabun	Injuries: 1 direct	Fatalities: None	Evacuations: At least 10
<p>Widespread trees and power lines down across the county, resulting in widespread power outages. Majority of the county was without power at the peak. Heavy damage to houses, buildings, vehicles and property from high winds and flooding. Flash flooding across the county resulted in some closed roads. High flows and resultant floodgate releases along the Tallulah River required evacuations of residents downstream near the Lakemont Community below Mathis Dam.</p>			

County	Injuries:	Fatalities:	Evacuations:
--------	-----------	-------------	--------------

Rutherford	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<p>Historic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The Broad River likely had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This was likely the most severe flooding in recorded history across the Chimney Rock/Lake Lure area in Rutherford County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. Numerous homes and businesses were flooded or washed away downstream in the Broad River and Lake Lure, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. Almost 100% of the Rutherford mountains was left without power and water. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. The Chimney Rock and Lake Lure communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations. East of the Rutherford mountains still experienced flooding, power outages, downed trees and power lines, and wind damage, but not to the extent of the Rutherford mountains. The Lake Lure Dam was also on the verge of collapsing as water overflowed the top and the sides of the Dam.</p>			

County Spartanburg	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 8	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Widespread wind damage occurred across the county with extensive amounts of trees downed. Many trees were uprooted or snapped with large numbers of roads blocked, including major highways and interstates. A large number of homes and businesses sustained damage from falling trees. Several fatalities also occurred due to tree falls. Minor structural damage from wind also occurred with roofing shingles blown off, car ports blown away and fences/road signs blown down. Extensive damage occurred to the power infrastructure leaving 99% of the county without power. Streams and rivers across the county rose into moderate to major flood stages with many roads flooded and water into some buildings.</p>			

County Stephens	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Numerous power outages from down trees and power lines across the county. 64% of the county were without power after the storm. Majority of damage is from downed trees and power lines across the county. Flooded roadways.</p>			

County Swain	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: None	Evacuations: At least 36
------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------

Moderate to major flooding in creeks, streams, mainstem rivers. Approximately 50 businesses have been damaged in some capacity, primarily to floor surfaces and merchandise close to the floor. Downtown Bryson City experienced flooding on a few streets as the Tuckasegee River crested just below record levels. Widespread downed trees and powerlines. Numerous power outages across the county. Bear Hunter Campground near Bryson City sustained significant inundation and displaced several campers.

County Transylvania	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
-------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Major flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The French Broad River at Rosman and Blantyre had surpassed their highest-ever crests by at least a foot. This was the most severe flooding since Tropical Storm Fred in 2021 across Transylvania County. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. Numerous homes and businesses were flooded, with a few likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, with damage to infrastructure likely. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides occurred, especially along steeper slopes. Widespread power outages were likely. Water rescues were likely across portions of the county.

County Union (NC)	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
-----------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Minor flooding of Goose Creek in the northern part of the county. Peak gust at EQY in Monroe had a peak gust of 44 mph. Likely some trees down and power outages.

County Union (SC)	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Unknown
-----------------------------	----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Moderate to major flooding along the Enoree River along the southern border of the county. Flood waters threatened some roads north of Whitmire. There were reports of trees down and widespread power outages across the county.

County Yancey	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: At least 4	Evacuations: Unknown
-------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Major to catastrophic flooding of streams, creeks, urban areas, and mainstem rivers. The South Toe River Basin and Cane River had dams and rivers surpassing their highest-ever crests by several feet. This likely had

major and catastrophic flooding. Widespread wind damage occurred on top of devastating floods. Widespread trees and powerlines were downed. At least hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded, with many likely destroyed. Widespread road closures, bridges completely wiped out, and roads completely washed away. The extent of landslides are unknown, but pictures and videos would indicate that landslides were very common, especially along steeper slopes. 100% of the county was left without power. The Yancey County water and sewage system was completely destroyed. Numerous water rescues took place as a result of the historic flooding. Communities were essentially cut off from society due to roads being washed away. Several small communities will likely have to be completely rebuilt. Recovery will take months, if not several years in the hardest hit locations.

County York	Injuries: At least 1	Fatalities: 1	Evacuations: Unknown
<p>Flooding along the Catawba downstream of Lake Wylie due to Duke hydro operations releasing water upstream, a river gauge 5 miles NE of Rock Hill got to a record crest of 24.52 feet which flooded the Pump House Restaurant. Minor flooding across other parts of the county. Numerous trees down across the county blocking roads and causing widespread power outages. Many trees on houses and damaging property.</p>			