

# North Carolina Mountains – Hurricane Helene

## Wake County Response

**Darrell Alford – Director, Wake County  
Fire & Emergency Management**

October 21, 2024



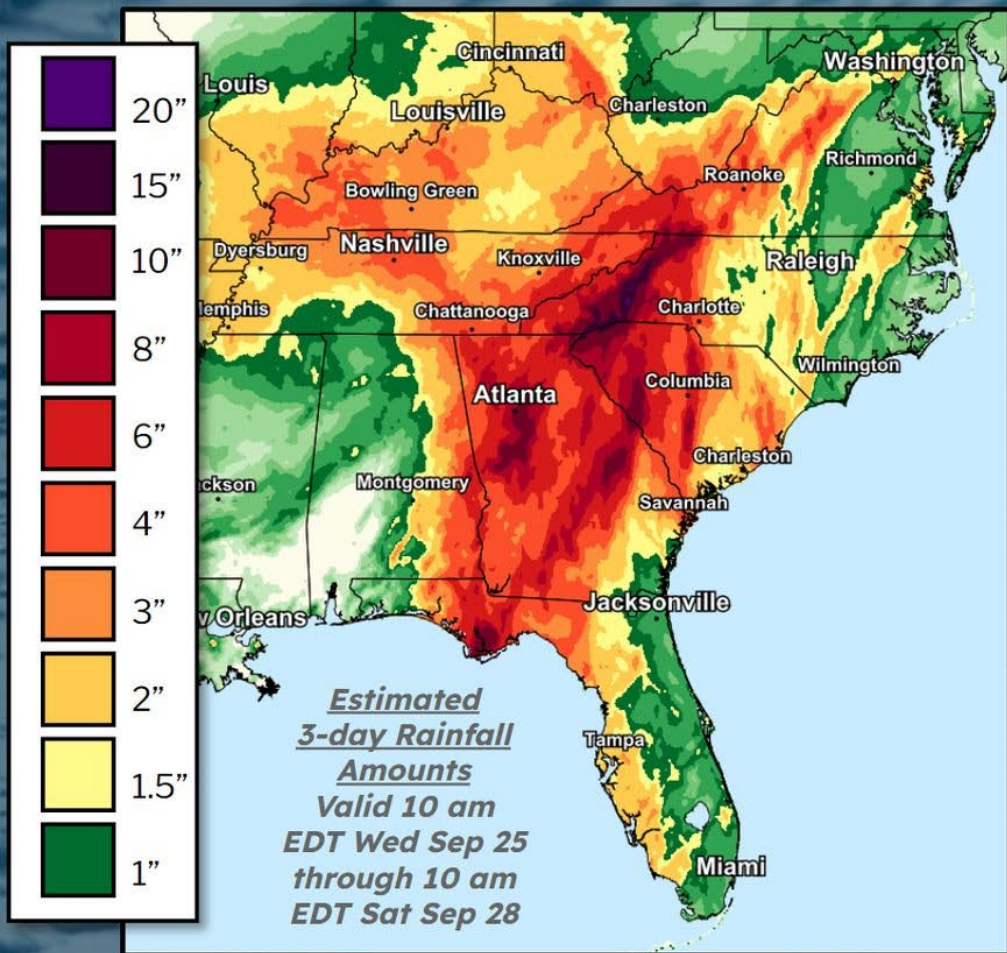
@wakegov    

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# Hurricane Helene

- **Landfall in Florida as a Cat 4 on September 26**
- **Forecasted Track carried it just west of the NC Mountains over the next 36 hours**
- **Severe flooding was expected with rainfall amounts expected in some areas over 20 inches**

# Selected Preliminary Storm Total Rainfall Associated with **HURRICANE HELENE** (Valid Wed 9/25 - Sat 9/28)



## FLORIDA

Sumatra	15.91"
Wilma	11.94"
Apalachicola	9.20"

## GEORGIA

Tallulah	14.22"
Dillard 3.5 NE	14.06"
Atlanta International Arpt	11.13"

## ALABAMA

Eufaula Municipal Arpt	9.42"
Pansy 1.6 NNE	8.50"
Auburn-Opelika Arpt	7.13"

## KENTUCKY

Paducah	6.00"
Elizabethtown 6.5 N	5.98"
Fort Knox	4.58"

## NORTH CAROLINA

Busick	30.78"
Mount Mitchell State Park	24.20"
Boone 3.8 ENE	20.12"

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Table Rock	14.34"
Salem 1.8 NE	13.78"
Columbia 2.1 NNW	10.76"

## TENNESSEE

Benton 2.3 ESE	9.92"
Sevierville 3.8 SE	7.22"
Bristol/Kingsport/Johnson City Arpt	5.79"

## VIRGINIA

Independence 1.3 S	9.49"
Galax 5.3 SW	8.11"
Nora 4 SSE	7.55"

Issued 09/28/2024 11 AM EDT



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
**WEATHER PREDICTION CENTER**

# Wake County Assistance

- **Pre-Deployments**
- **State EOC Assistance**
- **Wake Sheriff's Office and Municipal Partners**
- **McDowell and Polk County Fire Assistance**
- **Mitchell County Fire Assistance**
- **Asheville Fire Department Assistance**
- **Hickory Reception Center**
- **Polk County EOC Assistance**

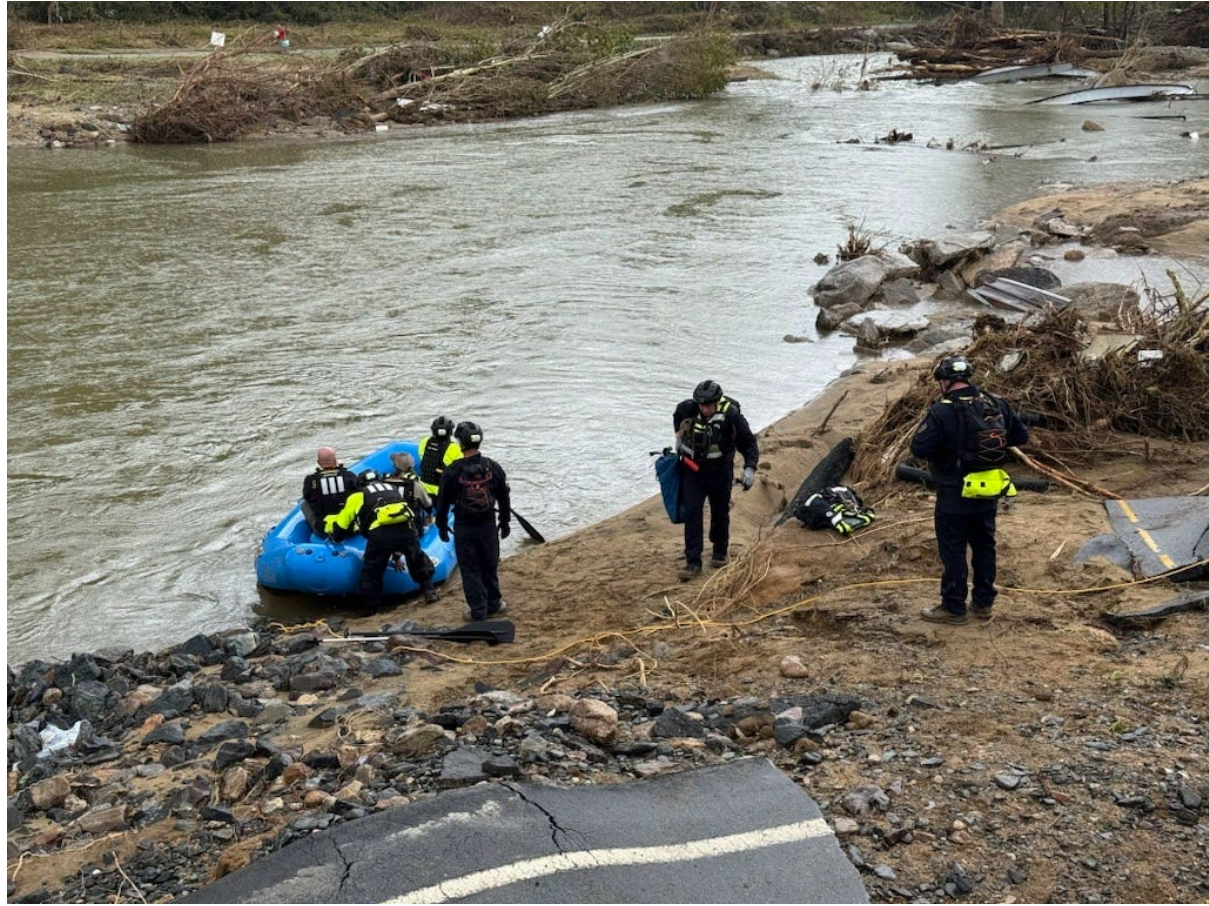
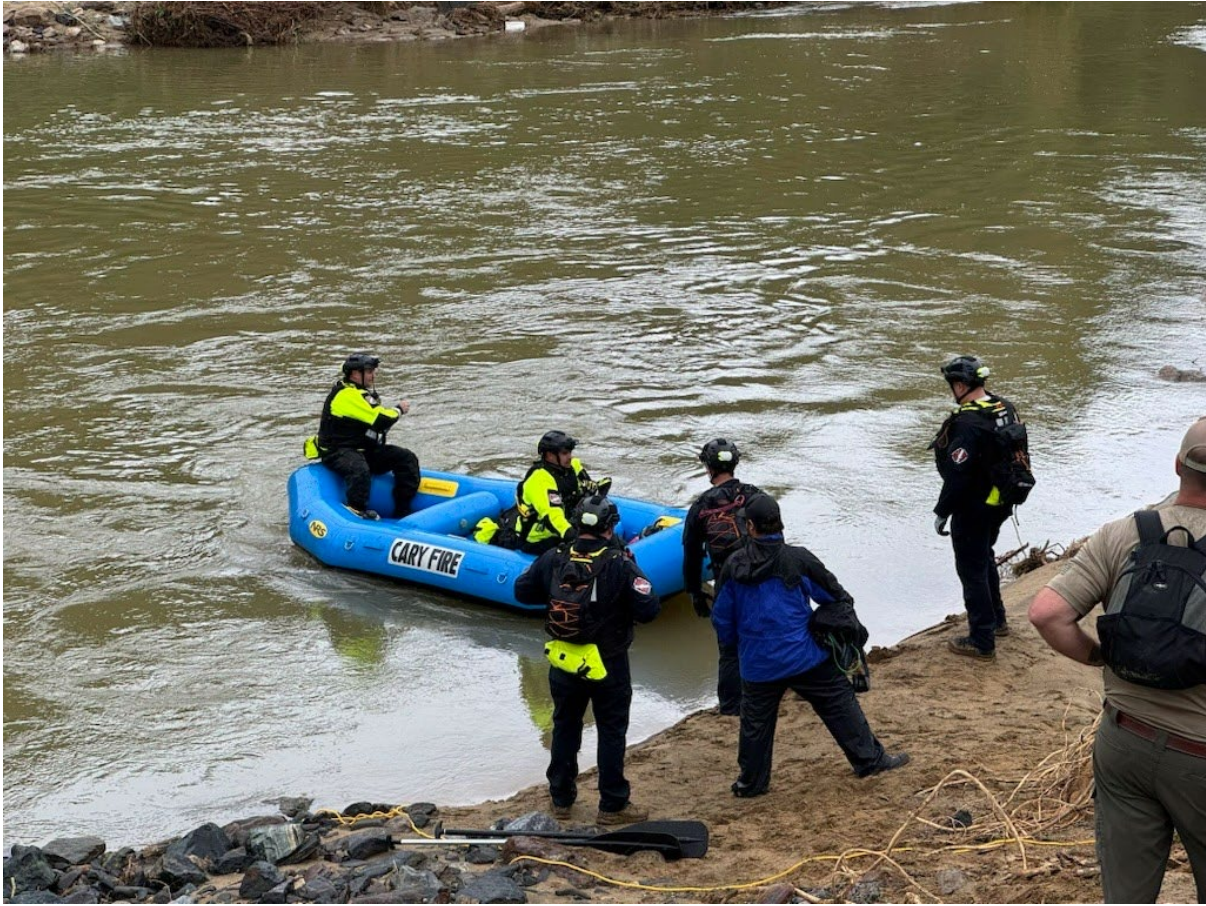
# Pre-Storm Deployments

## Swift Water & Urban Rescue

- Raleigh Fire
- Cary Fire
- Knightdale Fire
- Wake Forest Fire
- Wake County EMS











# Wake County EMS – USAR, Hickory & McDowell County

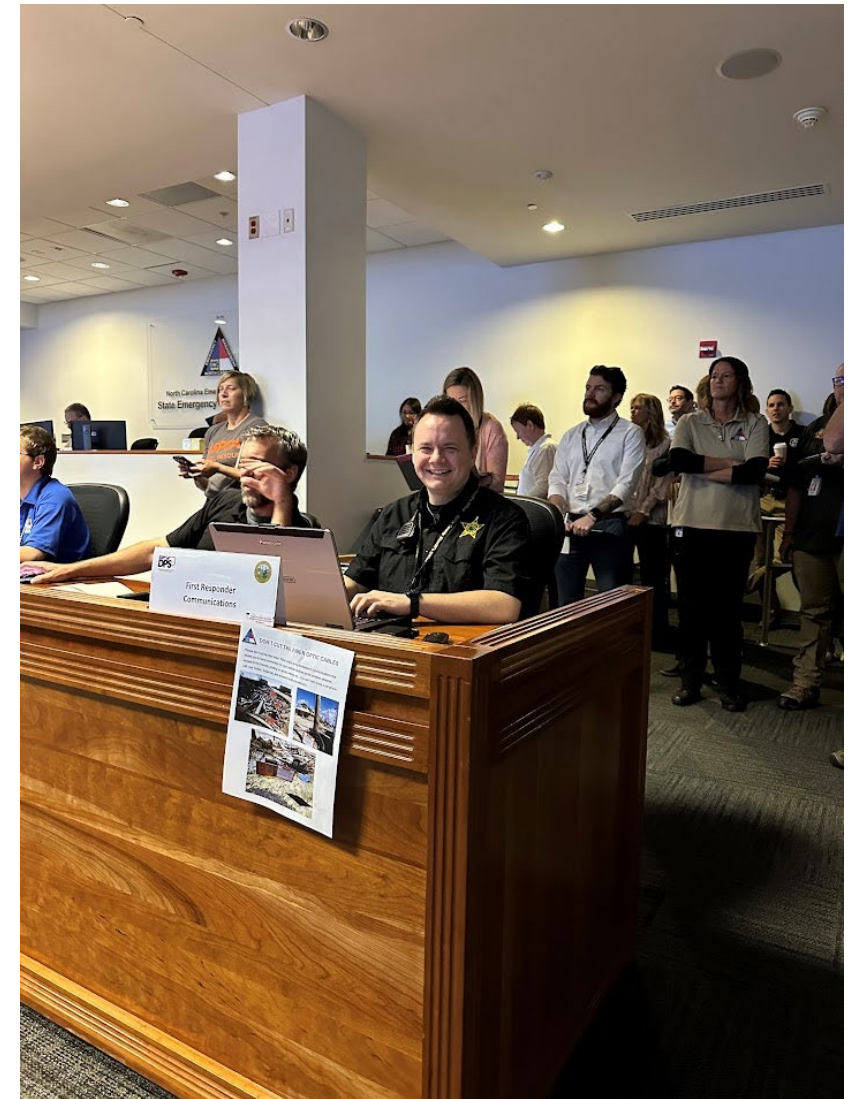


# Wake County EMS – USAR, Hickory & McDowell County



# State EOC Assistance

- Personnel from Wake County Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office, EMS, GSA and Human Services



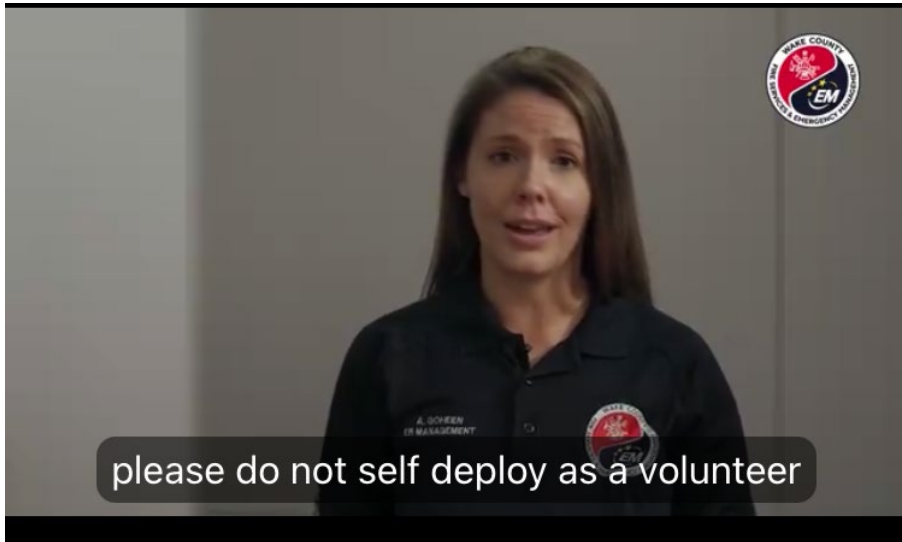


# Wake County Morgue Team Assistance



# Wake County Communications Assisting State EOC

- Wake County Communications videoed several messages at the State EOC that were utilized for messaging
- Wake County's Ready Wake Alerting system utilized by the State for messaging to the Agriculture Community



**AGRICULTURE  
EMERGENCY  
RESOURCES**

**TEXT: NCFARMAID  
TO: 888777**

*By opting in, you agree to receive texts from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services containing hurricane relief resources. You may opt out at any time.  
In partnership with ReadyWake! Alerts*



# Wake County Sheriff's Office and Municipal Law Partners



# Wake County Sheriff's Office and Municipal Law Partners





# McDowell County – Apex Fire



# Polk County – Durham Highway, Fairview & Fuquay-Varina



# Mitchell County Firefighters



# Mitchell County Firefighters



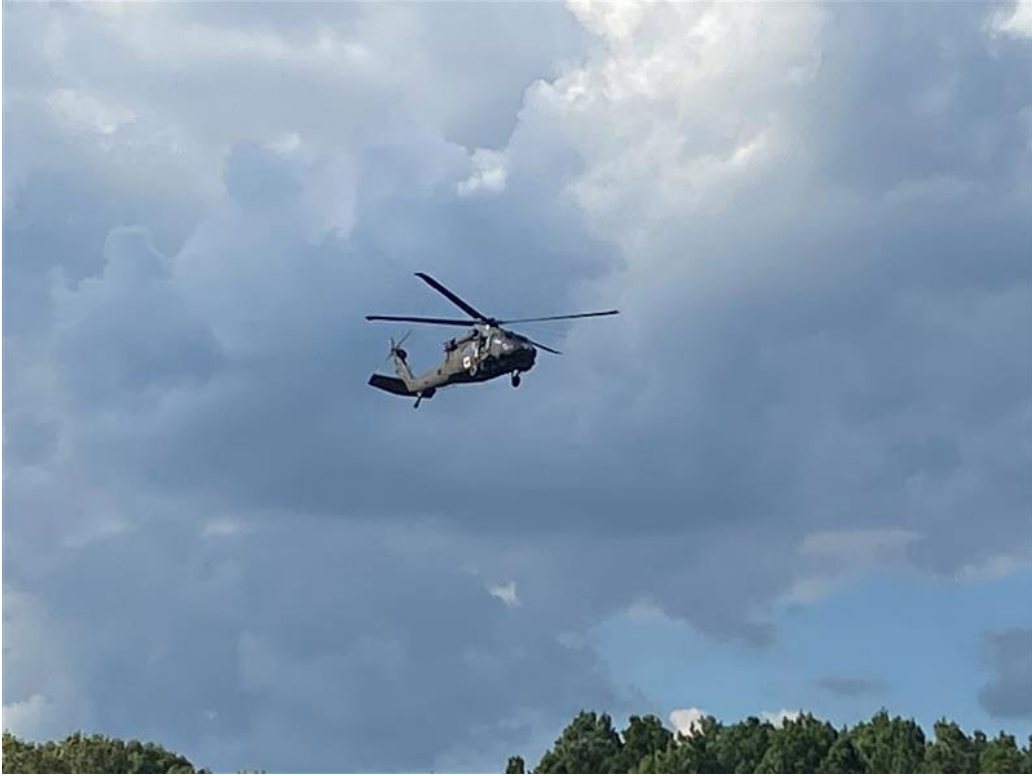
# Asheville Fire Department Coverage



# Hickory Reception Center



# Hickory Reception Center



# Polk County EOC





# Wake County Actions September 29-30

- **Based on the number of requests that we were receiving from the State, we began several processes.**
  - Purchased Satellite Links for our teams that were deploying
  - Rostered a 20-person team of firefighters for additional deployments
  - Assisted Wake County Law Enforcement Agencies with rostering and deployment to several counties in the mountains – over 100 personnel
  - Began packing equipment for the deployments in trailers to ensure everyone going was self sufficient
  - Worked internally with Wake Finance to establish a budget tracking code
  - Received approvals from County Manager for multiple deployments

# Wake County

- CCBI has employees deployed and are assisting the State with some identification methods
- Communications is currently deployed to Polk County EOC
- Sheriff Rowe partnered with Back the Blue to collect and distribute supplies
- Building Inspectors are currently rostered and waiting for a possible assignment

# Thank You

- **Thank You to all the County Employees who are assisting**
- **Thank You to our HHS, Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Agencies**
- **Thank You to the Fire Services/EM Team**
- **Thank You County Manager's Office**
- **Thank You Board of Commissioners**

**#TEAMWAKE**



**WAKE.GOV**