

Disaster Relief for Western North Carolina



From Representative Nasif Majeed <beverlee.baker-ncleg.gov@shared1.ccsend.com>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <beverlee.baker@ncleg.gov>
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**Representative
Nasif Majeed**
**Serving District 99
Mecklenburg County**



Western North Carolina Relief Updates

PEACE. The full extent of damage from Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina is still being assessed. As of October 1, efforts are focused on rescuing trapped individuals, and those wishing to help financially [can donate to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund, which supports storm victims.](#)

Duke Energy has made significant progress on power restoration, with about 266,000 without power, down from a peak of more than one million. Most of the original outages will be restored by the end of the week, Duke Energy says.

Adjutant General Todd Hunt of the North Carolina National Guard says 800 guardsmen are on duty and those numbers will continue to increase, working both on ground and in air. Guardsmen will be in every affected county by the end of the day. There are 92 search and rescue teams working diligently to find missing people.

More than 400 NC National Guard personnel are assisting with relief efforts.

Many roads are closed, and travel to the area is discouraged.

Key resources:

- A list of shelters can be found at: www.readync.gov
- To report a missing person or request non-emergency support, please call NC 211 or 1-888-892-1162 if calling from out-of-state.
- Additional information regarding FEMA assistance resources can be found at: disasterassistance.gov
 - FEMA helpline: 1-800-621-3362.
- Answers to frequently asked questions: ncdps.gov/helene
- Donations to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund: nc.gov/donate
- If you are seeking information on volunteer opportunities: nc.gov/working/volunteer-opportunities/volunteernc
- File price gouging complaints at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or www.ncdoj.gov/pricegouging

Official State of NC Donation Link

Donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

The North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund is now accepting contributions for hurricane damage. Contributions help with the unmet needs of hurricane victims. Contributions are made online by secure link after you submit the webform.

To donate by mail, please send your contribution to:

North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund
20312 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699





WNC Disaster Relief Overview

- North Carolina officials are working with state, local and federal partners to help coordinate and bring relief to communities in Western North Carolina that were hit hard by Hurricane Helene
- Work continues as crews make progress toward restoring power and cell phone services
- “This is an unprecedented tragedy that requires an unprecedented response,” Governor Cooper said
- Hundreds of National Guardsmen are on the ground and in the air assisting recovery efforts
- 34 storm-related deaths have been confirmed; dozens have been reported missing
 - Search and rescue operations are ongoing
- NCDOT is working to clear roads and get them open; people are urged to **stay off Western North Carolina roads** so emergency personnel can do their work

Written Pool Report from Gary Robertson of the Associated Press

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper arrived by plane at the Asheville Regional Airport in Fletcher about 10:30 a.m. There he met Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell, who got updates on storm recovery needs from Cooper and three Cabinet secretaries also in attendance.

Cooper shook hands with several members of the North Carolina National Guard deployed at the airport, including those assigned to the 1451st Transportation Company. The company members were waiting for a collection of supplies to load onto a flatbed truck. From there the supplies would be transported to Buncombe County and also airlifted to points west.

Criswell, Cooper, state Emergency Management Director Will Ray, along with other staff and press, boarded a National Guard C-26 aircraft to view from overhead damage in and around Asheville. That included aerial views of Chimney Rock and Lake Lure along with Burnsville and Marshall. Debris could be seen covering a large section of Lake Lure toward Chimney Rock.

Cooper, Criswell and others traveled next by car to Mission Hospital in Asheville, where hospital executives called the restoration of city water services to hospital operations a top priority.

No less than 20 water tanker trucks have been brought in daily since the storm arrived to feed the air-conditioning chillers and to keep the hospital functioning, said Greg Lowe, president of the North Carolina division of Mission’s parent entity HCA Healthcare.

Many employees haven’t left the hospital in the storm’s aftermath, and they’re concerned about the well-being of loved ones, he said.

“We know that we are providing safe care, good quality care, but we’re stretched. We’re very stretched,” Lowe said. “It has become difficult with our staff because they’re exhausted.” Some relief health care workers have been brought in to ease the stress.

But the hospital is being pushed to the limit, with patients in need of assistance arriving with their family members and even pets because they otherwise lack power, hospital officials said. More than 80 emergency room patients were awaiting to be admitted as of Monday afternoon.

The hospital is also getting ready for the results of additional devastation: Lowe said that three mobile morgues have been purchased to deal with more deaths.

“We’re preparing for what’s next,” he said.

Cooper, Criswell and others next visited downtown Asheville, where they spoke to some local businesses that were offering assistance to displaced residents. Kyle James and the other co-owners of Flour coffee and breakfast shop handed out over 300 biscuits and 25 gallons to passersby Monday morning. James said they planned to keep doing it as long as there was a need.

And the group also met workers of The Restoration, one of a few hotels that, while lacking running water, prepared Monday night to offer 100 beds combined to out-of-town first responders working on the recovery.

The governor’s motorcade went to Arden, where Cooper thanked volunteers at a feeding site at Biltmore Church and wished well recipients of water bottle cases, ice bags and packets of chicken and pasta and beans and rice. The Rev. Jason Gaston of Biltmore Church estimated that 3,000 cars had come through since early Monday seeking assistance.

Cooper, Criswell and Cabinet secretaries joined U.S. Rep. Chuck Edwards and other elected and National Guard officials for a news conference at the airport just before 4 p.m.

“This has been an unprecedented storm that has hit western North Carolina,” Cooper said. “It’s requiring an unprecedented response.”

Cooper said there were 92 search and rescue teams out working in the region as of Monday afternoon. He said that the number of electricity customers without power continued to fall, and progress was being made with restoring cellular service.

“We’re dealing with a situation that is unlike anybody’s ever seen in western North Carolina,” Cooper said.

State Emergency Management Director Will Ray said more than 7,000 North Carolina residents had already registered to receive FEMA assistance, and “there is money already rolling in to these pockets.” Almost 800 hundred North Carolina National Guard members have been activated.

Criswell said that at President Joe Biden’s direction, FEMA is “going to be here as long as it takes to finish this response.” She called the storm “historic” with “catastrophic impact on this community.”

Asked by a reporter whether he believed enough was done last week to evacuate residents before the storm, Cooper said officials knew it was going to be a significant event, and that local leaders told residents to leave low-lying areas.

“The devastation was beyond belief, and even when you prepare for something like this, this is something that’s never happened before in western North Carolina,” Cooper said.

Timeline from Governor Cooper’s Press Office

- Wednesday, September 25: [Governor Cooper Declares State of Emergency Ahead of Hurricane Helene](#)
- Thursday, September 26: [Governor Cooper Warns of Danger as Catastrophic Hurricane Helene Impacts North Carolina](#)
- Friday, September 27: [Hurricane Helene Continues to Bring Heavy Rain and Life-Threatening Flooding to Western NC](#)
- Friday, September 27: [Governor Cooper Requests a Major Disaster Declaration to Expedite Federal Aid for Tropical Storm Helene Recovery](#)
- Saturday, September 28: [Rescue Operations Ongoing Following Helene, Needed Supplies Coming to Western NC by Air](#)

- Saturday, September 28: [Rescues Completed, Emergency Supplies Rushed to Western North Carolina Communities Hit by Hurricane Helene](#)
- Sunday, September 29: [Disaster Response Surges in Western North Carolina Following Hurricane Helene](#)
- Sunday, September 29: [North Carolina Receives Federal Major Disaster Declaration for North Carolina](#)
- Sunday, September 29: [Donate to NC Disaster Relief Fund to Help with Helene Recovery, Governor Cooper Urges](#)
- Sunday, September 29: [How to Apply for FEMA Assistance After Hurricane Helene](#)
- Monday, September 30: [PHOTO/VIDEO AVAILABLE: Governor Cooper Travels to Western NC to Survey Storm Damage from Hurricane Helene](#)
- Monday, September 30: [An Unprecedented Response: State, Local and Federal Partners Surge Resources into Western NC Following Historic Damage from Hurricane Helene](#)

Please keep our western neighbors in your thoughts and prayers. Remember, donations made to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund will go to nonprofits working to meet the immediate needs of storm victims such as food and water, cleaning supplies and other emergency supplies. All of the donations made will go to disaster relief.

PEACE,



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Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008 |
Raleigh, NC 27601 US

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