

 **Hurricane Helene Update 10/8/24** 



**From** Rep. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. <no-reply@mail.house.gov>

**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>

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Dear friends,

We are still gathering the pieces from Tropical Storm Helene. I'm thankful that the damage from flooding in Cabarrus County seems to be limited, with a few scattered power outages. However, some residents who reside near the Catawba River in Mecklenburg County experienced flooding after the storm.



*Photo from [Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office](#).*

When she visited Charlotte this weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris announced that Mecklenburg County has officially received a FEMA Disaster Declaration. Homeowners and renters in Mecklenburg County with uninsured damage or losses from the storm can now apply for FEMA disaster assistance. FEMA can help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs, by going to [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), by calling 800-621-FEMA (800-621-3362), or through the FEMA mobile app. The Federal Government is already dispensing over \$100 million to repair roads damaged by the storm, and the VP announced another \$1 million to speed up repair of I-40. [Read Mecklenburg County's release here.](#)



It's been heart wrenching to watch the devastating footage from the communities in Buncombe County over the past week and my prayers are with the families of the 214 individuals who have lost their lives across several states, and the countless others who are in need of help. While we won't know the true toll of this devastation for weeks to come, I know that everyone is working as swiftly as possible to find those missing, recover lost property, restore power and communications to the area and to provide essential supplies. President Biden, Vice President Harris, Governor Cooper, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have my full support to ensure that all federal resources are made available to assist our neighbors in need. I was thankful to meet with Vice President Harris on Saturday to learn more about the whole-of-government effort to help North Carolina recover.

There are some who would use this crisis to divide us, but now is not the time. People are suffering because of a major weather event, and we need to come together to help them, not weaponize their anguish. FEMA personnel and other federal resources are deployed throughout the region, and I encourage you to consult this [rumor response page](#) to fact-check any incorrect information you may encounter online. Combating misinformation and disinformation is always important - but it is especially important when responding to disasters like Hurricane Helene. **In fact, disinformation after a hurricane or other natural disaster can discourage people from seeking critical assistance when they need it most.** So be sure to take a moment and read through [FEMA's rumor response page](#).



*It was very helpful to have Vice President Harris in Charlotte to address Helene recovery efforts.*

Many of you have called my office asking how you can provide support or how you can receive assistance, so I wanted to provide an update on what I've learned in recent Congressional briefings over the past week:

- An active search and rescue is taking place concurrently with recovery efforts.
- The Federal government will cover 100 percent of the costs associated with response and recovery efforts like debris removal, first responders, search and rescue, shelters, and mass feeding.
- Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in Mecklenburg County are eligible to apply only for government-backed SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans as part of the recently launched [Disaster Assistance for North Carolina Residents](#) and Businesses Impacted by Tropical Storm Helene.
- Taxpayers in North Carolina and other affected areas now have until May 1, 2025 to file federal individual and business tax returns, and make tax payments.
- FEMA encourages ANYONE in need of disasters assistance to apply in one of three ways:
  - Online at [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov)
  - By phone by calling 800-621-FEMA, or 800-621-3362.
  - Or by downloading the FEMA app on your smart phone.
- For the latest information about North Carolina's recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4827](https://fema.gov/disaster/4827). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://x.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://facebook.com/fema).
- For North Carolinians seeking general information, please visit [ncdps.gov/helene](https://ncdps.gov/helene).
- Lastly, if you are experiencing price gouging as a result of the storm, please call: 877-5-NO SCAM. That's 877-566-7226.
- My office has compiled a list of resources which can be found online at [adams.house.gov](https://adams.house.gov). Look for the tab that says HELENE RESOURCES.
- We will provide periodic updates as more information is provided. Thank you for listening and my continued prayers are with our fellow North Carolinians. Stay safe.

*Greeting Vice President Harris on the tarmac*

## More Information

[Sign up for CharMeck Alerts to stay up to date with local emergency information.](#)

Helpful links from [ReadyNC.gov](#):

[Evacuation Orders](#)

[Power Outages](#)

[Shelter Information](#)

[Weather Advisories](#)

### Report Issues

To help keep our community safe and operational, please report any of the following issues:

- **Downed Trees, Power lines, etc.**
- **Flooded streets**
- **Overflowing storm drains**

Depending on the severity of the situation, please use the appropriate contact numbers:

- For **Serious Emergencies (Immediate threats to life or property)**: Call **911**.
- For **Non-Urgent Issues**: Call **311**.

Your reports help emergency services respond more effectively and ensure our community recovers quickly.

As always, my office is here to support you through this challenging time and ensure our community remains strong and resilient.

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Sincerely,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Member of Congress



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