County Impacts Associated with Hurricane Helene (2024)

Narratives listed in alphabetical order by counties.

Updates:

- 11/22/2024 - Final issuance. Injury and Fatality Information updated.

County Name **Charlotte**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: All barrier islands, low-lying areas, areas prone to flooding, and mobile and manufactured homes.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 60 to70 mph, with a maximum gust of 66 mph near Punta Gorda at 4:29 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 4 inches, with a maximum total of 2.66 inches near Harbor Heights. Peak water levels estimated along coastal Charlotte County generally ranged from 2 to 5 feet above MHHW. This caused 8 structures to be destroyed, over 1,900 structures with major damage, and over 750 structures with minor damage.			

County Name **Citrus**	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: Zone A mandatory impacting 19,000 people; Less than 100 in shelters.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 50 to 60 mph, with a maximum gust of 54 mph near Lecanto at 9:45 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 3 inches, with a maximum total of 2.66 inches near Homosassa. A peak water level of 7.70 feet above MHHW was measured at the mouth of Crystal River at 2:30 AM EST on September 27, surpassing the previous site record of 5.99 feet above MHHW during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Peak water levels measured elsewhere along coastal Citrus County generally ranged from 5 to 8 feet.			

County Name **Desoto**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: None
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 30 to 40 mph, with a maximum gust of 58 mph near Arcadia at 4:30 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 5 inches, with a maximum total of 4.11 inches near Deep Creek Park.			

County Name **Hardee**	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: Voluntary for mobile homes, RVs, and low-lying areas.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 35 to 45 mph,with a maximum gust of 45 mph near Ona at 5:45 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 2 inches, with a maximum total of 1.42 inches near Bowling Green.			

County Name **Hernando**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Mandatory for areas west of US-19 including zones A, B, and C, and for residents in low-lying areas and in manufactured/mobile homes
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 60 to 70 mph, with a maximum gust of 66 mph at Weeki Wachee at 7:28 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 4 inches, with a maximum total of 3.44 inches near North Brooksville. A peak water level of 8.58 feet above MHHW was measured at the mouth of the Chassahowitzka River at 1:15 AM EST on September 27. Peak water levels estimated elsewhere along coastal Hernando County generally ranged from 5 to 8 feet.			

County Name **Highlands**	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: None
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 45 to 55 mph, with a maximum gust of 51 mph at Avon Park at 3:22 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 3 inches, with a maximum total of 2.89 inches near Avon Park.			

County Name **Hillsborough**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 2 Direct 3 Indirect	Evacuations: Zone A Mandatory and Mobile and Manufactured Homes.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 60 to 70 mph, with a maximum gust of 68 mph near Tampa International Airport at 7:40 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 5 inches, with a maximum total of 4.55 inches near Temple Terrace. A peak water level of 7.2 feet above MHHW was measured at East Bay at 11:48 PM EST on September 26, surpassing the previous site record of 4.56 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Old Port Tampa also set a new record at 6.86 feet above MHHW at 11:36 PM EST on September 26, surpassing the previous site record of 4.18 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Peak water levels measured elsewhere along coastal Hillsborough County generally ranged from 5 to 8 feet above MHHW.			

County Name **Hillsborough**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 2 Direct 3 Indirect	Evacuations: Zone A Mandatory and Mobile and Manufactured Homes.
One fatality occurred when a vehicle was struck by a previously damaged road sign as the family was evacuating the storm. Another fatality was due to storm surge.			

County Name **Lee**	Injuries: 3	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Zones A and B
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 55 to 65 mph, with a maximum gust of 63 mph at Tarpon Point at 1:51 PM EST, and 1:55 PM EST at Southwest Florida International Airport on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 5 inches, with an isolated maximum total of 5.87 inches near Bonita Springs. A peak water level of 5.12 feet above MHHW was measured at Fort Myers at 11:36 PM EST on September 26. Peak water levels estimated elsewhere along coastal Lee County generally ranged from 2 to 5 feet above MHHW. Over $16.8 Million in damages reported in the City of Fort Myers.			

County Name **Levy**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Coastal Communities, and residents in low-lying areas, manufactured/mobile homes and RVs
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 55 to 65 mph, however a maximum gust of 84 mph occurred at Cedar Key at 8:48 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 3 inches with locally higher amounts, with a maximum total of 5.24 inches near the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. A peak water level of 9.31 feet above MHHW was measured at Cedar Key at 11:48 PM EST on September 26, surpassing the previous site record of 6.89 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Peak water levels measured elsewhere along coastal Levy County generally ranged from 6 to 10 feet above MHHW.			

County Name **Manatee**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Zone A and manufactured/mobile homes
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 65 to 75 mph, with a maximum gust of 74 mph at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport at 6:19 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 2 to 4 inches, with a maximum total of 3.26 inches near Desoto Lakes. A peak water level of 6.04 feet above MHHW was measured at Port Manatee at 11:18 PM EST on September 26, surpassing the previous site record of 3.69 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Peak water levels estimated elsewhere along coastal Manatee County generally ranged from 4 to 7 feet above			

County Name **Manatee**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Zone A and manufactured/mobile homes
MHHW.			

County Name **Pasco**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: Mandatory for Zone A and Voluntary for Zones B and C. Mandatory for residents in manufactured/mobile homes and RVs and in low-lying areas.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 50 to 60 mph, with a maximum gust of 56 mph near New Port Richey at 7:10 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 3 inches, with a maximum total of 2.94 inches near Holiday. A peak water level of 5.04 feet above MHHW was measured at New Port Richey at 9:00 PM EST on September 26, before the gauge stopped reporting. Peak water levels estimated elsewhere along coastal Pasco County generally ranged from 2 to 5 feet above MHHW.			

County Name **Pinellas**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: 12	Evacuations: Mandatory zone A, along with all mobile home parks
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 65 to 75 mph, with a maximum gust of 73 mph at Clearwater Beach at 7:36 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 3 to 5 inches, with a maximum total of 4.38 inches observed near Crystal Beach. A peak water level of 6.67 feet above MHHW was measured at Clearwater Beach at 10:00 PM EST on September 26, surpassing the previous site record of 4.02 feet above MHHW set during the 1993 Storm of the Century on March 13, 1993. St. Petersburg also set a new record of 6.31 feet above MHHW, surpassing the previous site record of 3.97 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Elena on August 31, 1985. Peak water levels measured elsewhere along coastal Pinellas County generally ranged from 4 to 7 feet above MHHW. Twelve direct fatalities have been reported due to storm surge drownings.			

County Name **Polk**	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: None
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 50 to 60 mph, with a maximum gust of 59 mph near Fort Meade at 5:56 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 2 inches, with a maximum total of 1.88 inches near Lakeland.			

County Name **Sarasota**	Injuries: Unknown	Fatalities: Unknown	Evacuations: Zone A and manufactured homes
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 60 to 70, with a maximum gust of 69 mph near Venice at 2:55 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 3 inches, with a maximum total of 2.51 inches near North Port. A peak water level of 5.42 feet above MHHW was measured at the mouth of the Myakka River at North Port Charlotte at 12:45 AM EST on September 27, surpassing the previous site record of 3.57 feet above MHHW set during Hurricane Idalia on August 30, 2023. Peak water levels measured elsewhere along coastal Sarasota County generally ranged from 3 to 6 feet above MHHW.			

County Name **Sumter**	Injuries: 0	Fatalities: 0	Evacuations: No Orders. 10 people in special needs shelters, 48 people in general population shelters, and 1 pet.
Surface observations indicate peak wind gusts generally between 45 to 55 mph, with a maximum gust of 51 mph near Sumterville at 10:45 PM EST on September 26. Rainfall ranged from 1 to 2 inches, with a maximum total of 1.21 inches near Oxford.			