



Hurricane Helene Response – Report 8

Oct. 8, 2024

Staff Deployed

- 20 Forestry staff, 3 transports, 2 dozers, 1 skid steer
- 3 Agricultural Crime Unit Officers
- 1 Animal Health staff
- 3 Emergency Services Coordinators

Highlights

- Forestry crews continue to clear roads and rights-of-way in Carter and Unicoi Counties.
- A 6-person saw crew is being mobilized to Johnson County to assist in clearing access to a water tower.
- TDA is maintaining a list of resources to address livestock needs and continuing to monitor county requests through TEMA.
- Commodities staff are assisting in coordination of food and feeding sites for citizens and first responders in Carter, Cocke, Greene, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.
- Food Safety staff are canvassing affected areas to provide educational materials and guidance to licensed firms to help them safely resume food manufacturing and preparation operations.
- TAEP annual enrollment ended yesterday. However, a second TAEP application period will be offered Dec. 2-6 to affected farmers in Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.*
*(*counties align with Governor Lee's request for disaster declarations and public assistance)*

How To Help

The Northeast Tennessee Disaster Relief Center is open at the **Bristol Motor Speedway**. This center is the home base for recovery efforts and a major donation reception center in the aftermath of the devastating floods. The center is operating from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. This center does not replace the donation centers that have been established by counties. For more information, including a list of requested and prohibited items, [visit TEMA's website](#).

Primary agricultural and animal needs are dog food, cat food, cat litter, sweet feed, cattle feed, goat feed, swine feed, rabbit feed, chicken feed, crack corn, square bales of hay, 5-gallon buckets, and water troughs. Donations of those supplies are being accepted at the following locations:

UT Knoxville – College of Veterinary Medicine

Brehm Animal Science Arena

2506 River Drive | Knoxville, TN 37996

Hours: Oct. 9 & 10, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Contact: (865) 974-8387 or [Home | College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

Items Accepted: dog food, cat food, cat litter, livestock feed, hay (NO ROUND BALES)

Fender's Farm

254 TN-107 | Jonesborough, TN 37659

Hours: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Contact: Shelby Blevins (423) 895-1015

Urgent needs: horse feed, swine feed, sweet feed, cracked corn, kitty litter

Appalachian Fair Grounds

100 Lakeview St. | Gray, TN 37615

Call for hours

Contact: Joseph Redman (423) 833-1461 or Steven Huff (423) 620-1965

Items Accepted: livestock feed, agricultural supplies, hay (round bales and large loads of square)

Wilson Livestock Market

695 Morrell Springs Rd. | Newport, TN 37821

Hours: Daily from 9 a.m. – Noon

Contact: Randy Hodge (865) 414-7801

Items Accepted: hay, fencing supplies

Erwin Moose Lodge

50 Jones Road | Erwin, TN 37650

Call for hours

Contact: Doug Manson (423)-737-3651 or (423) 743-9955

Items Accepted: dog food, cat food, livestock feed

Johnson County Equine and Agriculture Association

5328 Hwy 67 | Mountain City, TN 37683

Call for hours

Contact: Tony Randazzo (423) 607-1167 or Billy Ward (423) 895-3517

Items Accepted: see their [Facebook](#) page

Disaster relief questions should be directed to the **Disaster Hotline (423) 830-2696** daily from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. ET. This hotline is available for community members, donors, and national or international organizations seeking information or requiring specific logistical considerations about disaster relief efforts.

For additional donation and volunteer information, visit www.tn.gov/tema/updates/hurricane-helene.html and click on “Volunteer and Donation Information.”

Guidance

People who need **immediate resources or assistance** should contact their local Emergency Management Agency: www.tn.gov/tema/prepare/regional-ema-contacts.html.

Farmers who need **recovery resources** should work through USDA at www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane. Farmers must **register with FEMA** to be eligible for USDA Farm Services Agency programs for livestock and crop loss. Call (800) 621-3362 or navigate to Home | disasterassistance.gov to register.

The **Crisis Clean-Up Hotline (844) 965-1386** has been established for survivors to access free assistance with clean-up efforts.

If you or a loved one needs someone to talk to, there is a national **Disaster Distress Helpline (800) 985-5990**. It's available 24/7 to all U.S. residents who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. Learn more on their [website](#).

The Tennessee Department of Transportation recommends using the **TDOT Smartway** app and website for current road closures and alternative routes. Learn more at [TDOT SmartWay](#).

Survivors in Carter, Cocke, Green, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington counties can apply for **FEMA Individual Assistance** for rental assistance, home repair, and personal property replacement, in addition to other uninsured or underinsured disaster losses. Survivors can apply:

- Online anytime at disasterassistance.gov
- By phone at 1-800-621-3362 between 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. ET. Multilingual operators are available.
- In-person at a Multi-Agency Resource Center (details below).

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) has established two **Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC)**s for individuals affected by Hurricane Helene. Each MARC will be staffed with personnel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal, state, and regional partners to ensure residents have access to all available resources following the flooding event. TEMA is working to identify additional MARC locations.

The MARCs are open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. ET, Monday – Saturday and Noon – 5 p.m. ET on Sunday.

MARC – Elizabethton

1749 HWY 19E | Elizabethton, TN 37643

MARC – Jonesborough

306 Forest Dr. | Jonesborough, TN 37659

Individuals can speak to representatives from several agencies and departments, including but not limited to: FEMA, TEMA, American Red Cross, Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS), Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD), Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), and Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security – Driver Services. Right now, Small Business Administration (SBA) staff are only available at the Jonesborough location.

Retail Food Stores – See [Restaurants and Grocers Reopening After Hurricanes and Flooding](#) for guidance. Additionally, if your store is without water, it's essential to activate your emergency procedures immediately. If you cannot access potable water, all food preparation must stop and only prepackaged foods can be sold. Your commitment to food safety ensures the well-being of your customers. If you have questions, please call (615) 837-5193.

Produce Growers – See [Resources for Human and Animal Food Producers Affected by Flooding](#), [Guide to Assess Flood-Affected Crops](#) and [Food Safety for Flooded Farms](#) for guidance. If you have additional questions, please email produce.safety@tn.gov or call (615) 837-5193.

We continue to share information and resources on our website:
www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/emergency-response---resources.html.