



Hurricane Helene Response – Report 1

Oct. 1, 2024

Staff Deployed

- 33 Forestry staff, 8 transports, 8 dozers
- 8 Agricultural Crime Unit Officers
- 2 Animal Health staff

Highlights

- Forestry crews are clearing roads and rights-of-way in Carter and Washington Counties.
- A 7-person saw crew was airlifted to an area in Carter County inaccessible due to bridge failures.
- Forestry is fulfilling a request from Carter County officials to deploy a UTV and operator to refuel generators for emergency communications.
- Agricultural Crime Unit Officers are deployed to Washington County for livestock control and assessments.
- Animal Health staff are active with the Carter County Disaster Animal Response Team.
- Food and Dairy staff are contacting nearly 800 licensed food facilities, manufacturers, and dairies in affected counties and assisting with guidance for safe operations.
- TDA is working to maintain a list of possible resources for livestock and continuing to monitor county requests through TEMA.

How To Help

Crossroads Christian Church (1300 Suncrest Drive | Gray, TN 37615) is accepting dog and cat food donations.

For additional donation and volunteer information, visit www.tn.gov/tema/updates/hurricane-helene.html and click on "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:
www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/hurricane.

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

Retail Food Stores - 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. Only prepackaged foods can be sold during this time. Your commitment to food safety ensures the well-being of your customers. If you have additional questions, please call (615) 837-5193.

Produce Growers – See [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.