



Hurricane Helene Response – Report 2

Oct. 2, 2024

Staff Deployed

- 38 Forestry staff, 9 transports, 9 dozers, 1 UTV
- 8 Agricultural Crime Unit Officers
- 2 Animal Health staff
- 3 Emergency Services Coordinators

Highlights

- Forestry crews continue to clear roads and rights-of-way in Carter, Johnson, and Washington Counties.
- A Forestry UTV operator is refueling generators for emergency communications in Carter County.
- Approximately 20 Forestry staff are preparing to mobilize to Carter County as part of the Grand Divisions Type 3 Incident Management Team.
- Agricultural Crime Unit Officers are deployed to Carter County for livestock control and assessments.
- Animal Health staff are active with the Carter County Disaster Animal Response Team.
- Food and Dairy staff continue to contact licensed food facilities, manufacturers, and dairies in affected counties and they are providing guidance for safe operations.
- 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, and Washington Counties.
- TAEP annual enrollment is currently underway. However, staff are working to accommodate affected farmers in Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties* and will allow a second TAEP application period Dec. 2-6 for applicants who live in those counties.
*(*counties align with Governor Lee's request for disaster declarations and public assistance)*

How To Help

Donations of livestock and pet feed and supplies are being accepted at the following locations:

UT Knoxville Vet School
Brehm Animal Science Arena

2506 River Drive | Knoxville, TN 37996
(October 2 from 2-6 p.m., October 3 from 5-7 p.m., and October 4 from 2-6 p.m.)

Crossroads Christian Church
1300 Suncrest Drive | Gray, TN 37615
8 a.m. – 9 a.m. daily

Embreeville Fire Department
4061 Hwy 81 S | Erwin, TN 37650
Noon – 4:30 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday

South Central Elementary School
2955 TN-107 | Chuckey, TN 37641
Noon – 4:30 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday

Note: Larger deliveries of hay and/or feed should be directed to the Crossroads and South Central locations.

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.

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](#).

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.