



Hurricane Helene Response – Report 5

Oct. 5, 2024

Staff Deployed

- 49 Forestry staff, 10 transports, 9 dozers, 1 UTV, 1 skid steer
- 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, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.
- A 10-person chainsaw crew is on site in Washington County to assist with debris removal.
- 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 organizing 2-person teams to begin canvassing affected areas on Monday. They will provide educational materials and guidance on how to safely resume operations.
- 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

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:

Fender's Farm

254 TN-107 | Jonesborough, TN 37659
Contact: Shelby Blevins (423) 895-1015

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

Wilson Livestock Market

695 Morrell Springs Rd. | Newport, TN 37821

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:
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](#).

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](#).

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.