



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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Board Memo 145-2024: Update on Hurricane Helene in the Southern and Atlantic Regions

Executive Board,

NAPS headquarters received an update from Michael Swigart, the Office of National Preparedness, regarding Hurricane Helene. The information provided below is as of October 3rd.

Overall: Multi*state Hurricane Helene recovery ongoing in two (2) Areas and seven (7) districts. *Southern Area with five (5) districts* (FL1, FL2, GA, SC, TN) and *Atlantic Area with two (2) districts* (NC, VA). Civil infrastructure and cellular challenges are currently greatest impacts.

People:

- ALL employees *accounted for*.
 - *Southern* (1) FL2 District – The search efforts for the 1 employee who has been AWOL since July 24, 2024 have been discontinued after USPIS efforts were unsuccessful.
- Sixty-seven (67) known personal impacts to employees (homes, vehicles)
 - *Southern* (51): GA – 25, TN – 5; SC – 6, FL2 – 11, Gulf Atlantic Div – 3; SE Div – 1
 - *Atlantic* (16): NC – 16
- One serious injury to an employee while on duty in the VA District has been reported. HQ Labor Relations and HQ Occupational Safety and Health have been engaged.
- Employee Availability is normal for the Southern Area impacted locations and remains a challenge in impacted areas with no power and water.
- Emergency Operations Center is active at the NC District Office.
- Four (4) Recovery team members enroute to NC District:
 - 2 from National Preparedness (arriving 10/4/2024).
 - 2 from the CRDO Command Center.
- Curfews remain in effect: [*Southern* (2) FL2 – 1, Anna Marie; GA – 5 counties]; [*Atlantic* (4) NC – 4 counties]
- Topeka CRS dispatched one (1) trailer of water to stage at Atlanta RPDC, and dispatched (1) trailer of water to stage at Asheville NC. An additional trailer of water was requested by the NC District this morning. ETA is pending.
- Procuring necessary items, such as port-a-potties, hand sanitizer, for sites with compromised water treatment facilities

Property:

Destroyed (1)

- *Atlantic* (1) – [NC – 1] Micaville (PO box office) 28755 – being COOP'd to Burnsville NC 28741

Inaccessible (3) due to bridge or road closures

- *Southern* (1) – [TN – 1] (Trade TN)
- *Atlantic* (10) – [NC – 8; VA - 2]

Facility Assessments (41) – current as of 2PM ET

- *Southern* (22)
 - FL1 (5) – 5 UNSAFE, all FATS complete
 - FL2 (10) – 10 UNSAFE, all FATS complete
 - GA (7) – 3 UNSAFE, 2 awaiting results
 - TN – (1) – 1 awaiting results
- *Atlantic* (19)
 - NC (17) – 8 UNSAFE, 9 awaiting results
 - VA (3) – 3 awaiting results

Power Outages:

- Retail & Delivery: FL1, SC, GA continue to improve with grid power restoration; closely monitoring. NC and VA working through restoration efforts, with NC experiencing fifty-two (52) without power. Field Maintenance redirecting mobile generators and other equipment to other affected areas as power comes back online
- Processing: Tallahassee PDC remains on generator power.

Other (Atlantic):

- Seven (7) postal vehicles suffered damages (NC).
- Four (4) Mobile Retail Units requested and enroute to be staged in Asheville SDC for mobilization to needed locations.
- Five (5) satellite phones are enroute to NC to assist with challenges of cell phone coverage outages caused by 784 cellular towers being out of service in western NC.
- Per NCDOT: All roads in Western NC should be considered closed and non-emergency travel is prohibited.

Product:

- Due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene, the Governor of Florida issued an Executive Order which suspends the “No Forwarding” of mail-in ballots.
- Four (4) Emergency Mobile Fuel tankers deployed and in use for GA – 2; SC – 1; NC -1
- Amazon volumes from the closed HUB (GA and SC service) were received today. HQ providing inventories to assist in districts to load level inbound volume. However, sixteen 16 offices in South Carolina did not receive volume today, HQ is assisting in mitigating.
- IT is providing support for wireless needs, as requested, for sites without power but have cell service capabilities.
- Change of Address requirements (fee and ID requirement) for the impacted locations in North Carolina will be suspended. Specific 5-digit zip codes to be included are being compiled. Additionally, USPS laptops to assist with the COA process in shelters (and other locations are being provided).
- Delivery continues in all accessible locations, only where safe to do so (extensive road closures / washed-out roads)
- Expecting non-deliveries for inaccessible locations; all will be recorded in DCV and FDB

COOP'd / Suspended offices:

Southern:

- TN: Two (2) COOP'd offices with Mobile Retail Units inbound; CCBR enroute
- FL1: Four (4) COOP'd offices; 1 suspended
- FL2: Ten (10) offices COOP'd, with two Mobile Retail Units inbound
- GA: Five (5) COOP'd offices, three (3) retail units remain closed.
- SC: Per latest Industry Alert: 45 retail offices re-opened today.

Atlantic

- Industry / Service Alerts being updated for retail and delivery operations as power is restored. *Previous Service Alert stated that all retail and delivery facilities in the 286, 287, 288, and 289 3-Digit ZIP Code areas are suspended, with 39 retail facilities suspended in 270, 272, 273, 280, 281*
- NC – 8 COOP'd offices
- VA – 1 COOP'd office

Communications:

- Employee Emergency Hotline is being updated to reflect any changes in affected districts
- Employee standup talks continue to be provided.
- Unions and Management Associations are being briefed.
- Districts and Divisions continue to track employee personal impacts as they are reported; EAP and PERF being shared
- Service / Industry Alerts are continuing to change as power is restored. All submitted alerts are being reviewed, approved, and loaded to usps.com
- Congressional outreach and Election outreach continues
- Monitoring shelters and corresponding activities related to COAs, COOP sites, and election mail

Please share this information with your membership.

Thank you and be safe.
NAPS Headquarters