



HURRICANE HELENE A.A.R.

The following is the U.S. Veterans Hall of Fame After Action Report for Hurricane Helene Response measures taken by the volunteer team of the organization.

Days Active: 25 SEP - 5 OCT (11 days)

Hours on the Ground: 90

Mileage: 1,260

Regions served:

- Steinhatchee, FL
- Perry, FL
- Cross City, FL
- Horseshoe Beach, FL
- Asheville, NC
- Black Mountain, NC
- Fletcher, NC
- Biltmore Forest, NC
- Hendersonville, NC
- Royal Pines, NC
- Swannanoa, NC

Total Rescues: 72

Total evacuations without Rescue: 131

Total Lives Impacted: 203

SUMMARY:

Hurricane Helene made landfall one-hour east of Tallahassee, within the big bend of Florida. The rescue team, originally deployed to Tallahassee, made our way down route 19 at 18:31 on 25 SEP, with our first active rescue occurring at 19:10.

Operations continued at a 3 per hour rescue pace for 16 rescue hours.

On 30 SEP, we were notified that western North Carolina was in an all-hands S.O.S. situation. Thus, we packed up the team and headed north to Asheville, NC. [9-hour total drive time].

On the ground in Asheville, we joined with active teams under constant deployment for +60 hours.



We then branched out as waters receded and mudslides ceased to secure spot deployments between various cities for 14 hours.

Total rescues and evacuations exceeded 200 (at 203) for the total deployment.

Total Costs:

Vehicle Rental: \$460.67

Fuel: \$305.75

Batteries and food: \$137.59

Grand Total: \$904.01

Media Links:

[Hurricane Helene: Army vet describes volunteer rescue and recovery efforts in NC | Fox News Video](#)

[Hurricane Helene deaths rise to 44, fears of more 'catastrophic' flooding \(lemonde.fr\)](#)

[\(2\) Sebastian on X: "Was scrolling through New York Times and saw this Charlotte hero leading a response crew of volunteers down in Florida during Hurricane Helene. Thank you, Curtis Drafton. @CLTgov https://t.co/9YLryNXDUe" / X](#)

LOG ALBUM: *non-graphic edited*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/5Ye5FAkc2E9VLdj2A>

Photo from Internet Archives (media credit Sun Sentinel - Florida Newspaper)

BREAKING NEWS Category 5 Hurricane Milton winds reach 175 mph as Florida coastal residents begin to evacuate Oct

NEWS > WEATHER > STORMS & HURRICANES

Hurricane Helene makes landfall as Category 4 storm |



61 of 61

Curtis Drafton, who heads a volunteer search and rescue organization, surveys downed trees and power lines in Waukeelah, Fla., on Friday morning, Sept. 27, 2024. Helene thrashed Florida as a powerful hurricane, producing dangerous storm surge along the coast and bringing heavy winds and rain across the southeastern United States as it moved inland as a tropical storm on Friday. (Paul Ratje/The New York Times)

