



Dear IAEM Members:

As you know, our colleagues in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic will grapple with Hurricane Helene's devastation for many months and years. News outlets are reporting more than 100 deaths, and countless others are still unaccounted for across the region. The historic storm surge levels, strong winds, and extreme rainfall have impacted six states. Many lack transportation networks, power, water systems, communications, and more.

### **To Those Responding**

First and foremost, to the emergency managers working around the clock to stabilize and recover, YOU ARE making a difference and helping people on their worst days. The strength, support, fortitude, and dedication you continue to show your communities and organizations is extraordinary – and nothing short of heroic.

Please also remember that IAEM is more than just an industry association – we're a team of friends and colleagues who are there for each other when we need it most. When the days and weeks seem long and unforgiving, know we are here to support you. You are not alone in this.

And, most importantly, between the stress and chaos, please remember to find a moment to care for yourself. Your mental and physical well-being is critically important – and it's equally important you show up for yourself, just as you do for your communities. You are valued, and your well-being matters.

### **How to Help**

For those outside of the region, if you have a friend or colleague in the impacted area, please let them know they're not alone. They may not have the bandwidth or availability to respond immediately, but your outreach will mean more than you know. It may also give them the energy they need to make it through the day.

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD) members and partners are assisting communities in need due to Hurricane Helene's impact. Currently, there are no requests for donations other than monetary donations. See the list of the NVOAD partners and members [here](#).

Other organizations currently accepting donations are:

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Catholic Charities USA](#)
- [Humane Society of the United States](#)
- [Operation BBQ Relief](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [Samaritan's Purse](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [Team Rubicon](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [World Central Kitchen](#)

Below are quick links for information from each affected state.

### **Florida**

[Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) – The storm update page includes press releases, Executive Orders, disaster assistance forms, a state assistance line, recovery resources, SNAP Program food replacement information, county emergency management information, sheltering information, price gouging reporting, business resources, WiFi hotspots, evacuation information, closures, and more.

### **Georgia**

[Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency](#) – The storm update page includes state of emergency notices, how to report damages, crisis cleanup information, a list of local EM agencies, shelters, state parks open to evacuees, lodging, how to locate loved ones, and more.

### **North Carolina**

[North Carolina Department of Public Safety](#) – The storm update page includes emergency declarations, crisis cleanup information, open shelters, power outages, county storm updates, flood mapping, road conditions, DEQ situation report tracking, and much more.

### **South Carolina**

[South Carolina Emergency Management Division](#) – The division's home page is tracking Hurricane Helene efforts, including news updates, shelters, ways to help, road conditions, closings, power outage reporting, and more.

### **Tennessee**

[Tennessee Emergency Management Agency](#) – The storm update page includes news releases, shelter information, volunteer information, status reports, how to donate, and more.

**Virginia**

[Virginia Department of Emergency Management](#) – The storm page includes Executive Orders, press releases, recovery FAQs, a state public inquiry line, a local emergency management directory, and more.

IAEM is posting these links on a special Hurricane Helene Support page. Please email [dawn@iaem.com](mailto:dawn@iaem.com) with any links you would like to add.

As our friends continue to assist their communities, I encourage you to lift them with kindness.

In solidarity,

Carrie

Carrie Speranza, CEM  
IAEM-USA President

#IAEMstrong