



Hurricane Helene Update

As of 5 p.m. July 11, 2025

Latest News

- To date, the Department has spent \$892M on Helene recovery and has been reimbursed with \$182M in federal funding (\$92.5M FEMA, \$89.5M FHWA).
- Division 13 is targeting late July for opening the closed stretch of N.C. 80 between Lake Tahoma and the Yancey County line.
 - This area suffered significant damage including slides from above onto the road and slides below the surface wiping out large sections of the road.
 - The rebuilding process has included NCDOT crews, two indefinite delivery/quantity contracts, and two bid-build contracts — Watson Construction and NHM Construction.
- NCDOT's temporary repairs will be tested in Avery County following the re-opening of Elk River Falls in the Pisgah National Forest – Appalachian Ranger District.
 - Visitors access the falls via Elk River Road, including a temporary railcar bridge over the river.
- NCDOT Communications is in the early stages of preparing for the 1-year remembrance of the hurricane.
 - Coordinating on a special event with Gov. Stein's team and other cabinet agencies, which will help shape and form the event in late September
 - Developing plans for a variety of videos for multiple audiences — in person, social and other
 - Devising a media tour schedule that takes reporters to multiple locations on multiple days in August to help news outlets prepare their 1-year packages.
- We issued social media posts this week regarding the latest [Helene recovery bill](#) which directs nearly \$300M to NCDOT to be used for recovery in impacted areas, and to remind drivers [parking is not allowed](#) on the temporary access road in Chimney Rock.

