



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

SUBJECT: Hurricane Helene
SITREP #: **2024-9.3**
ISSUED: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 1400

OVERVIEW

Hurricane Helene may cause unprecedented impacts to the Atlanta Metro area. Helene, currently a category 1, is forecast to become a major hurricane as it approaches the northeastern Florida Panhandle. Current rainfall will continue through early Friday morning as Helene moves onshore. The threat for flash flooding begins tonight and will continue through Friday morning. We could see excess of 8-10 inches of rain during this period. The threat for strong, damaging winds begins Thursday evening and continues overnight into early Friday morning with wind gusts exceeding 60 mph. The metro area is in a Tropical Storm Watch until further notice.

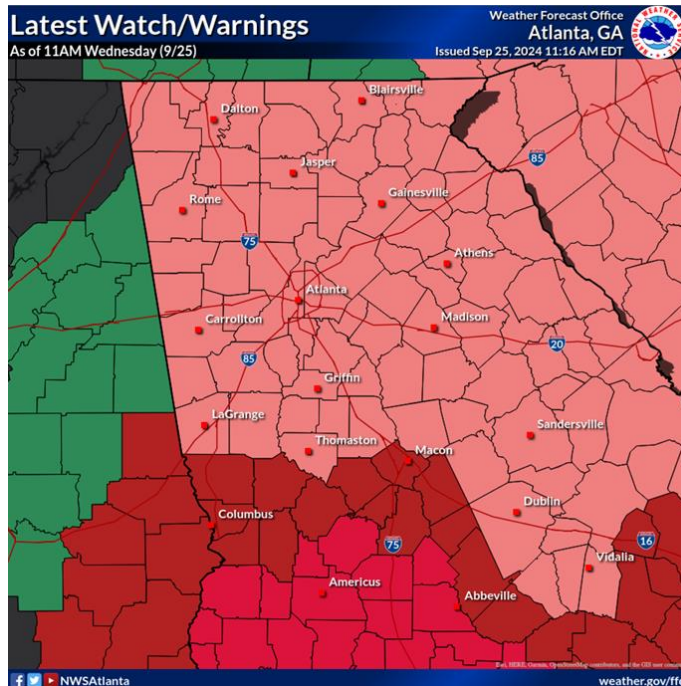


Figure 1: Latest Watch/Warnings for GA as of 11 am 9/25

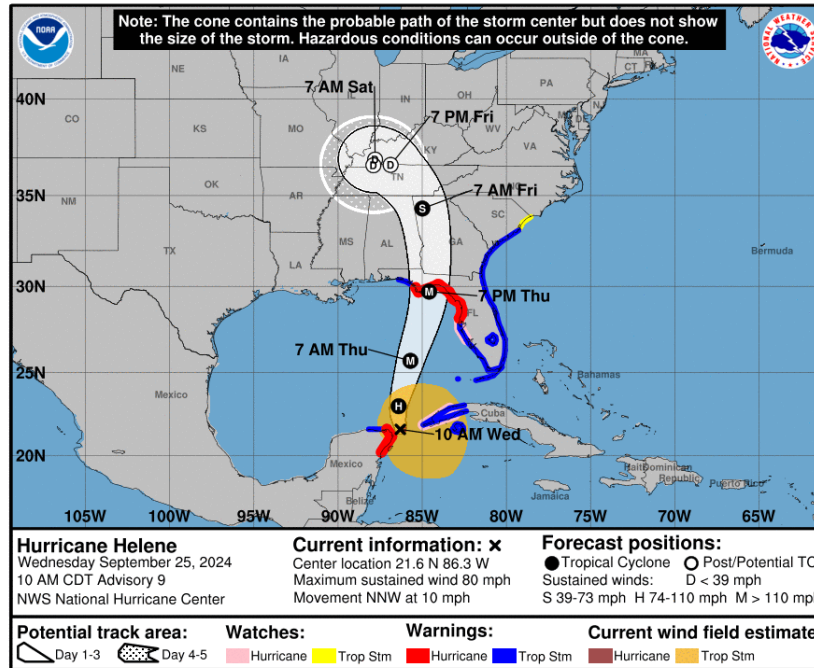


Figure 2: 5-Day Hurricane Helene Forecast Cone

IMPACTS

Rainfall

An unrelated cold front will push through the area today bringing widespread rain and embedded thunderstorms. This rainfall will be heavy at times. Current forecast rain totals for Atlanta from Wednesday night through Friday morning are 8-10 inches with localized areas receiving up to 15 inches. Much of the forecast area is outlined in a Moderate Risk (Level 3 or 4) for excessive rainfall. While campus generally handles excessive rainfall well, the rest of the metro area does not. Flash flooding may become an issue today through Friday morning.

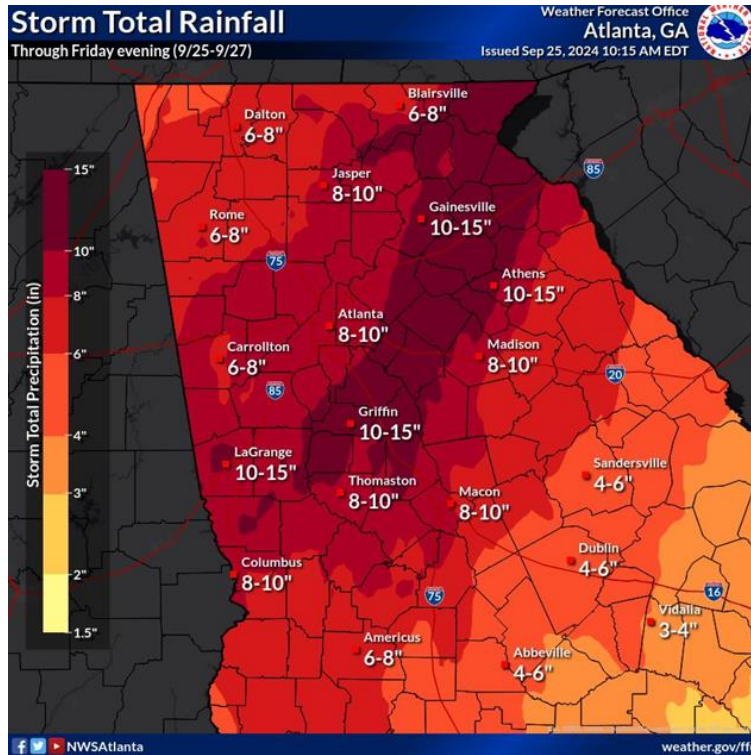


Figure 3: Projected Rainfall Totals through Friday Night

Damaging Winds

Conditions will become increasingly breezy over the course of the day on Thursday. As the system tracks farther inland overnight Thursday and into Friday morning, winds will become strong across the whole region. Current forecasts have sustained winds in the 30-35 mph range, along with elevated gusts in excess of 60 mph. High winds and saturated soils may lead to downed trees and powerlines across the region. Campus generally maintains power through such events with our infrastructure underground, however, the metro area may see widespread power outages.

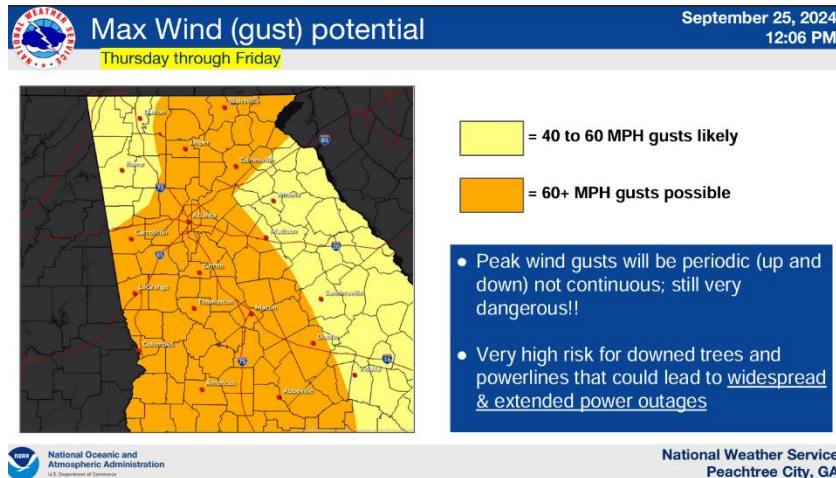


Figure 4: Max Wind (gust) potential Thursday and Friday

Isolated Tornadoes

The tornado threat begins tonight with the front moving through ahead of Hurricane Helene. The Atlanta area is highlighted in a level 1 of 5 risk for severe weather. The tornado threat associated with Hurricane Helene is elevated towards the GA coast, with the metro area in the lowest category of thunderstorm risk. Even with the lowest risk, tropical systems still pose a hazard for tornadoes that develop and dissipate quickly and are generally weak.

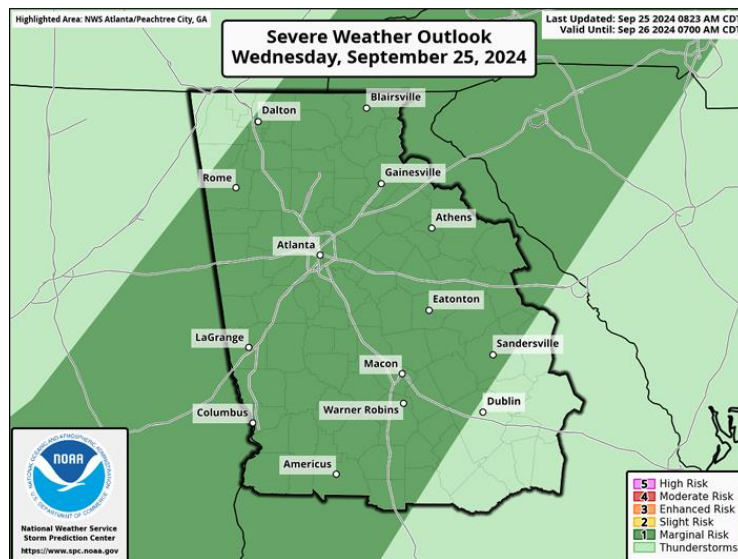


Figure 5: Severe Weather (Tornado) Outlook for Wednesday, 9/25 (Level 1 of 5).

PRIMARY HAZARDS

- Heavy Rainfall
- Damaging Winds
- Isolated Tornadoes

NEXT STEPS

- The Georgia Tech Police Department Office of Emergency Management will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.
- Follow the GT Office of Emergency Management on twitter @gtpdalerts.
- For the latest forecast information, please visit the [National Weather Service](#) and [National Hurricane Center](#).