



Hurricane Helene Briefing

7 AM EDT

Thursday, Sep 26, 2024

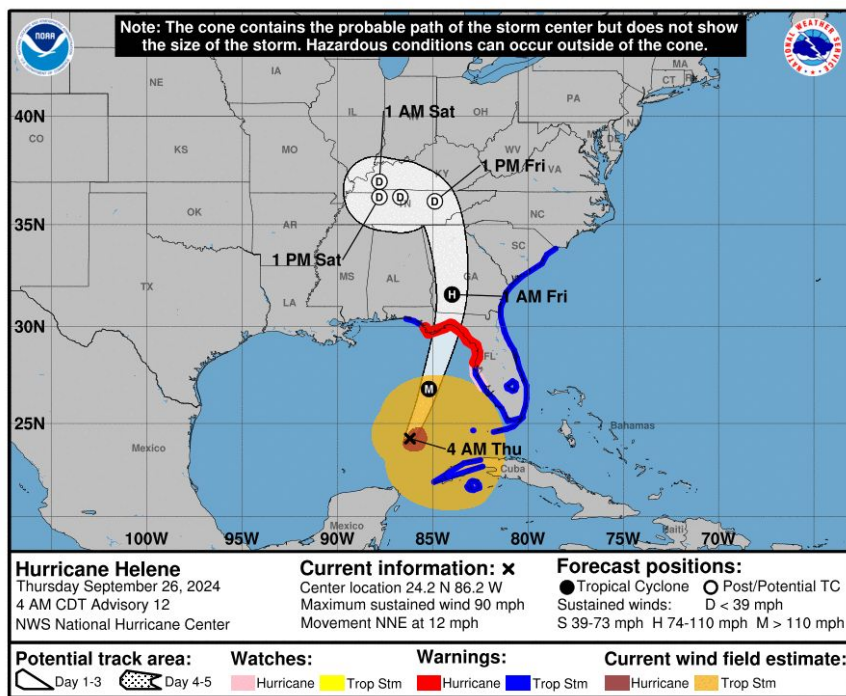
What has Changed:

- Tornado threat has expanded to cover all the Midlands and CSRA
- Broader wind fields and increased gust potential across the area



Situation Overview

Hurricane Helene



NOTE: Do not focus on the exact track.
Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.

- Helene remains a Category 1 Hurricane, but is expected to rapidly intensify, becoming a major hurricane before making landfall along the Florida Panhandle this evening.
- After landfall, Helene moves rapidly northward inland across GA while weakening through tonight.
 - Its rapid forward speed and expanding wind field will allow tropical storm force winds to extend well inland across the southeast U.S.



Situation Overview

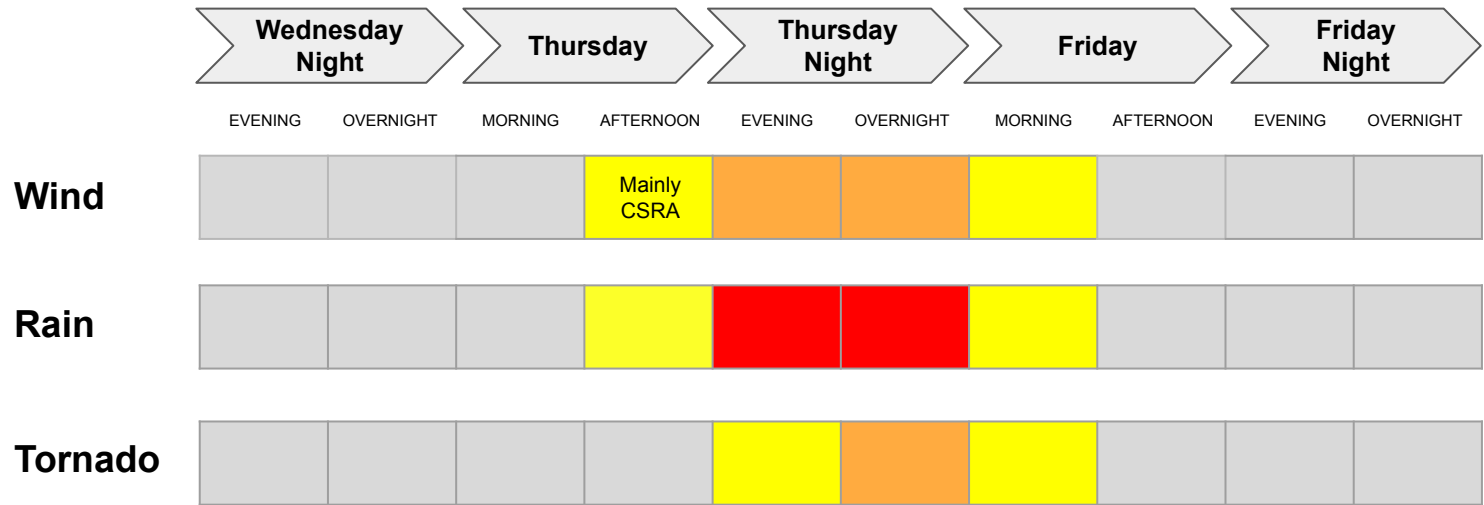
Hurricane Helene

- Impacts from Helene are expected to extend well beyond and to the east of the forecast track, bringing potentially significant impacts to the SC Midlands and Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) later today into Friday morning.
- A large wind field is expected east of Helene, bringing frequent tropical storm force gusts to most of the area late tonight into early Friday.
 - *Gusts up to 50-60 mph expected in the CSRA* and up to 40-55 mph across the Midlands, with local higher gusts possible.
 - *Tropical Storm Warning remains in effect for all of the Midlands and CSRA*
- Increasing potential for tornadoes overnight tonight into early Friday
 - *Nighttime tornadoes pose a greater danger due to limited visibility and difficulty receiving warnings.*
- Heavy rain spreads across most of the area today, persisting into Friday morning. Greatest flash flood potential is across the southern Midlands and CSRA, where a Flood Watch is in effect.
 - Minor to Moderate river flooding possible along the Saluda and Broad Rivers.



Timing of Greatest Impacts

Hurricane Helene



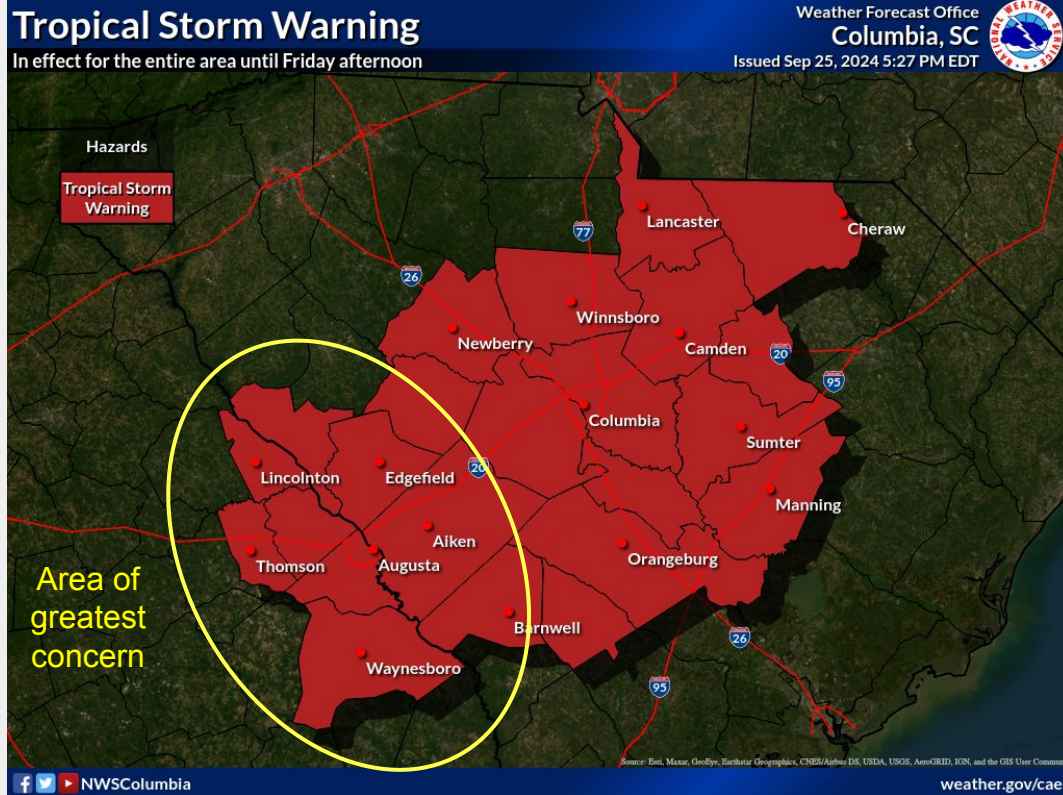
Effects & Impacts Legend

- Little to no impact
- Minor impact
- Moderate impact
- High impact
- Extreme impact



Tropical Storm Warnings

Hurricane Helene

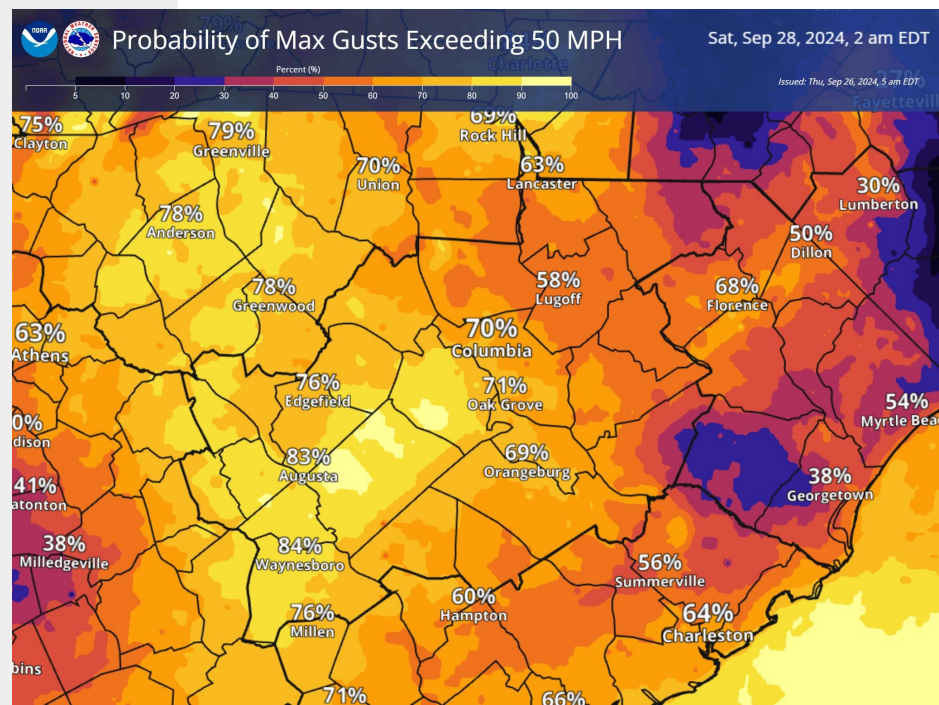
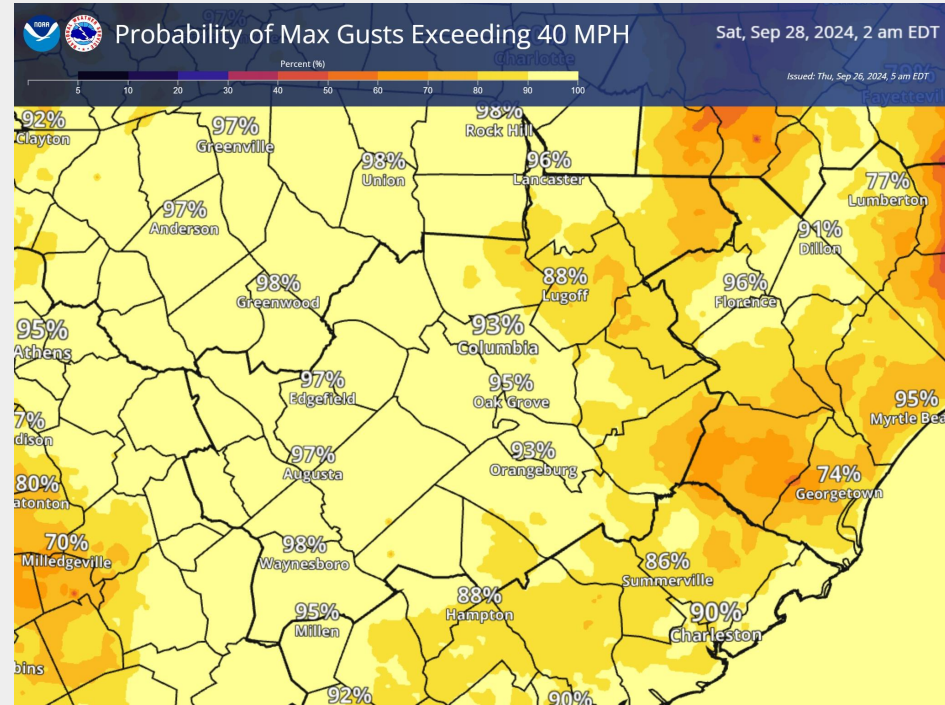


- Tropical Storm Warnings for all of SC and GA are now in effect.
- Tropical storm force wind gusts likely across the entire area.
 - *Highest confidence however is in the CSRA*



Max Wind Gust Probability

Through Friday





Wind Gust Forecast - Tonight & Friday morning

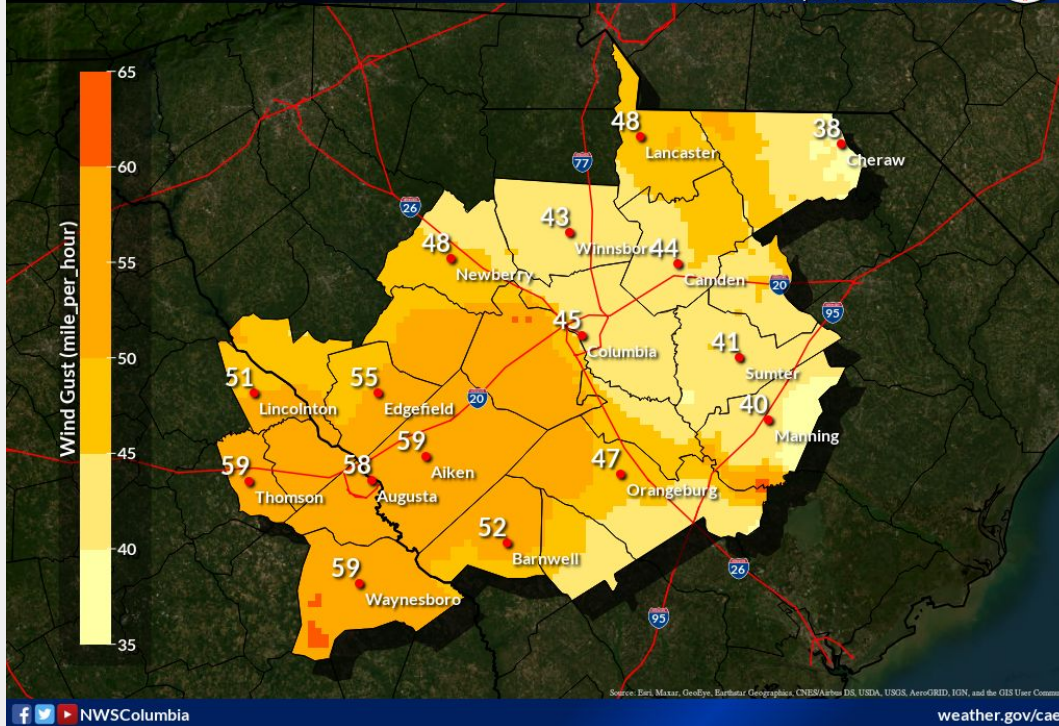
Hurricane Helene

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

Weather Forecast Office

Columbia, SC

Issued Sep 26, 2024 5:58 AM EDT

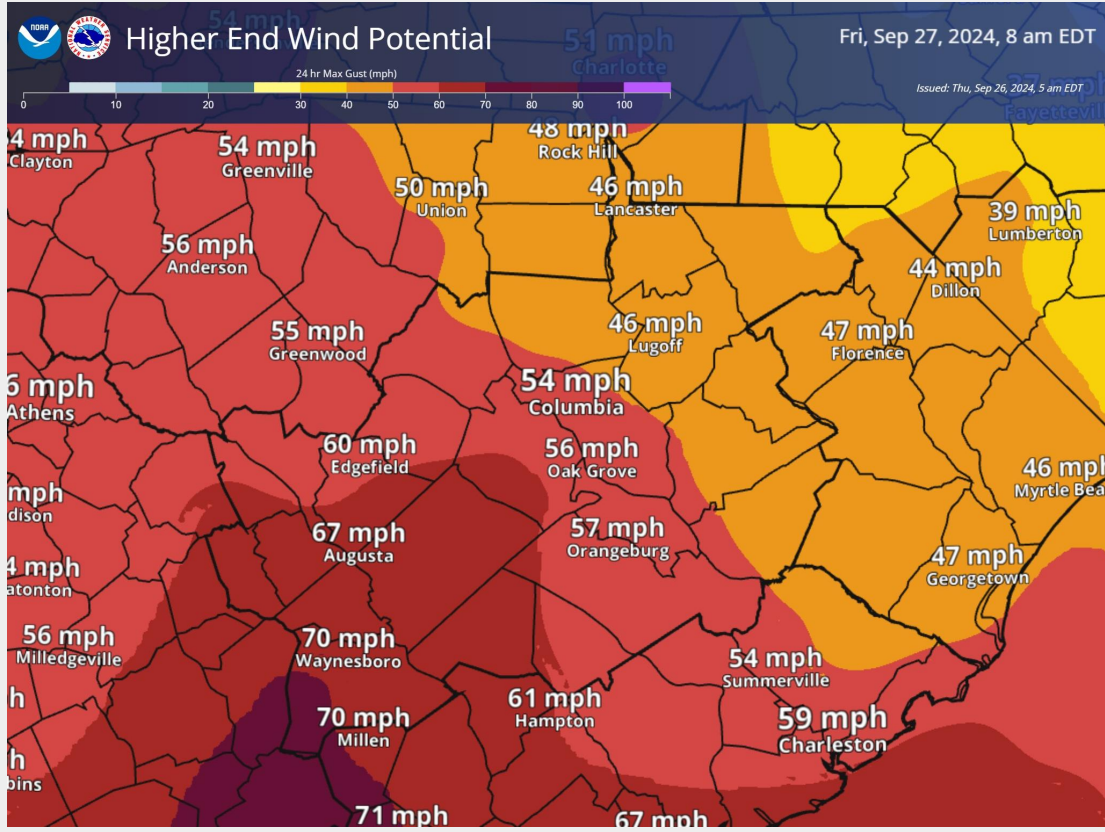


- Wind gusts in the 50-60 mph range are expected in the CSRA from this evening through Friday morning.
- Gusts of 40-50 mph expected in the central Midlands, with gusts around 40 mph in the Pee Dee.



Higher-End Wind Gust Potential

Hurricane Helene



- Increased concern remains for the wind threat in the CSRA. A higher-end wind potential exists in the CSRA, where wind gusts could exceed 60 mph.
- There is a lower potential for 50 mph or greater winds in the northeast Midlands.



Current Radar View

Hurricane Helene

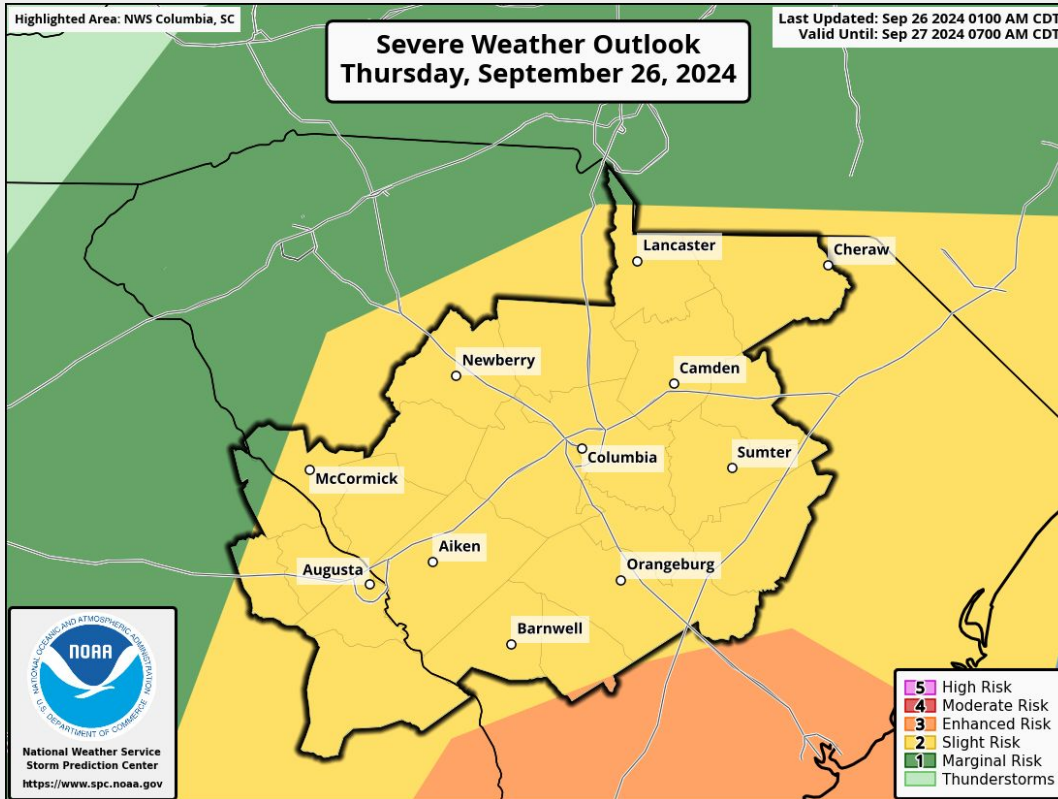


- Rainfall from Hurricane Helene is spreading across the Southeast this morning.
- Expect rain to continue spreading northward with the heaviest rains coming tonight into Friday morning.



Potential Tornado Impacts

Hurricane Helene

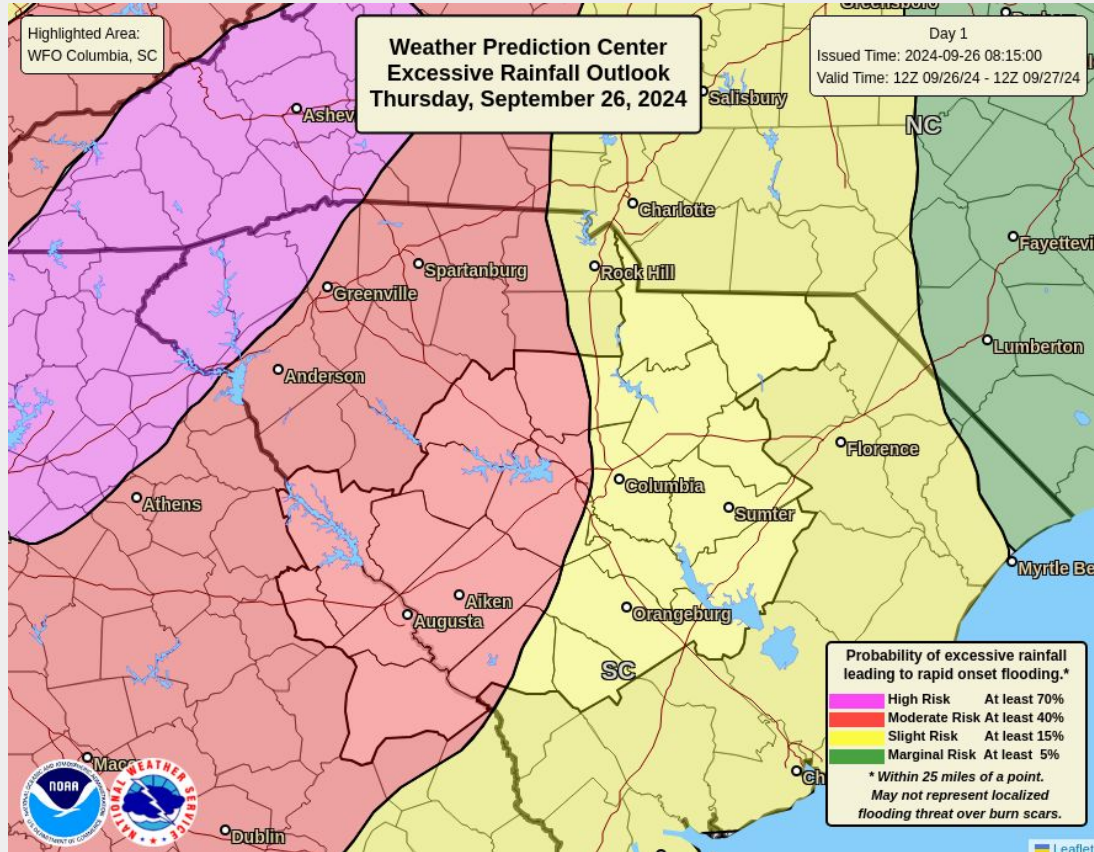


- Tornado threat increases through the day, with highest potential this evening into Friday morning.
- There is a Slight Risk for severe weather for the Midlands and CSRA.
- *Nighttime tornadoes pose a greater danger due to limited visibility and difficulty receiving warnings*



Inland Flooding Impacts

Hurricane Helene



- Moderate to heavy rain develops later today and continues into Friday morning before tapering off in the afternoon.
- Portions of the area, including the Western Midlands and CSRA are at a Moderate Risk of Excessive Rainfall.



Inland Flooding Impacts

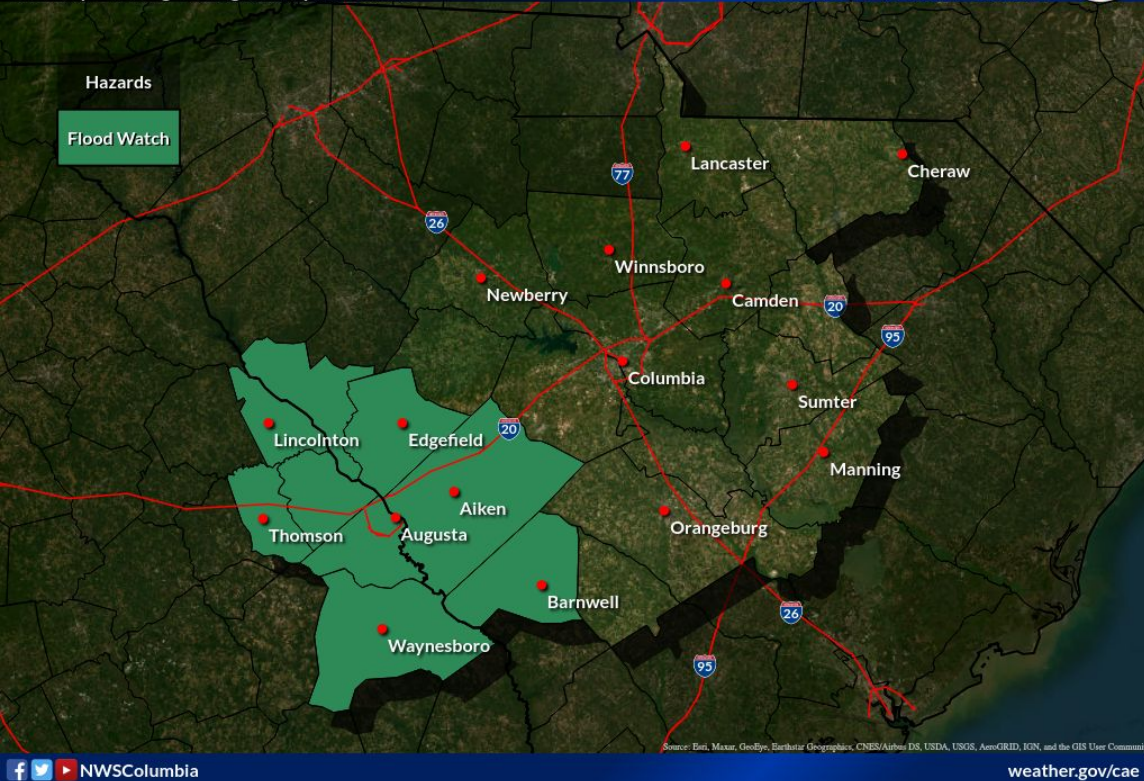
Hurricane Helene

Flood Watch

Thursday Morning Through Friday Afternoon

Weather Forecast Office
Columbia, SC

Issued Sep 25, 2024 11:07 AM EDT



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

weather.gov/cae

NWSColumbia

- Moderate to heavy rain develops later today and continues into Friday morning before tapering off in the afternoon.
- Flash Flood Watch remains in effect through Friday afternoon.

Last updated: 9/26/2024 5:31 AM EDT

National Weather Service - Columbia, SC



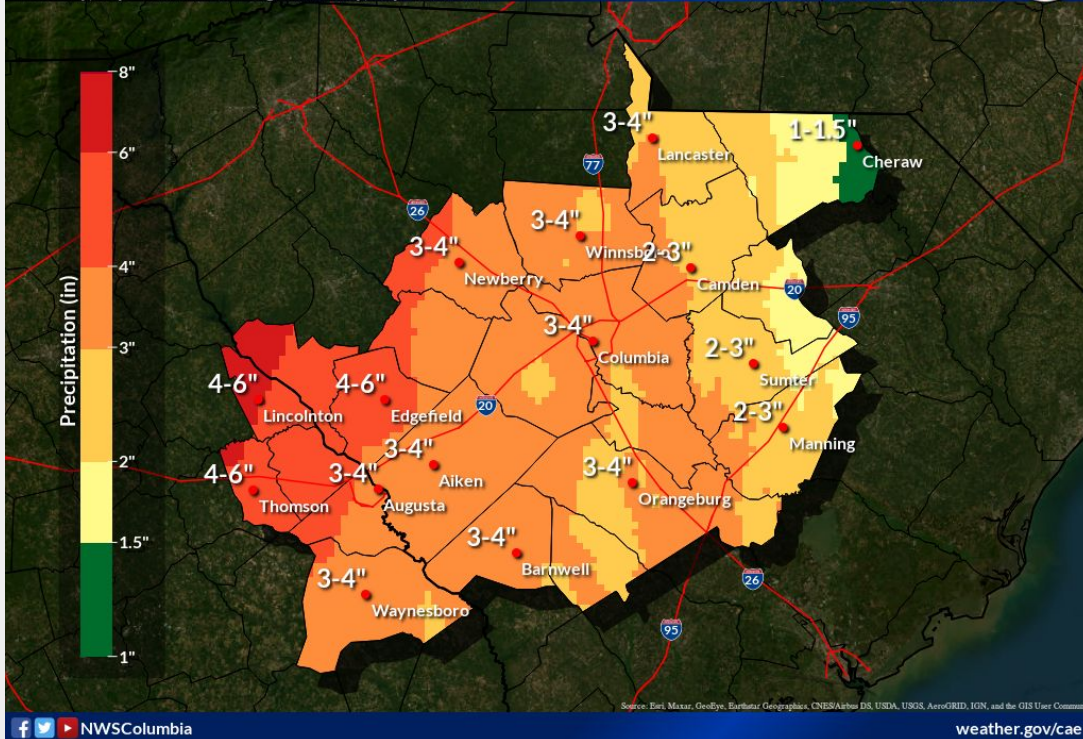
Inland Flooding Impacts

Hurricane Helene

Storm Total Rainfall

Thursday, Sep 26 at 6 am through Saturday, Sep 28 at 6 am

Weather Forecast Office
Columbia, SC
Issued Sep 26, 2024 6:04 AM EDT



- Forecast rainfall totals have only slightly changed, but amounts are highly track dependent.
- The western Midlands and CSRA could see 3"- 6" of rainfall, while the eastern and northern Midlands could see 1"- 3" through Friday.

NWSColumbia

weather.gov/cae

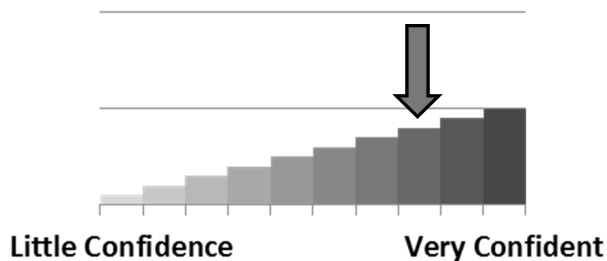


Key Take-Aways

Hurricane Helene

- Hurricane Helene will likely strengthen into a major Hurricane before making landfall along the Florida Panhandle.
- Helene is forecast to track northward through Georgia leading to the potential for heavy rainfall, strong winds and tornadoes.
- The most significant impacts are expected to unfold tonight into early Friday across the area.

Forecast Confidence



Impacts will be dependent on the exact track and strength of the storm as it makes landfall in the northeastern Gulf. While the confidence in the impacts associated with the storm are moderate to high, confidence is limited in the exact location of these impacts.



Local Resources

Hurricane Helene

Next Briefing:
1 PM EDT
Method: Email



Web: weather.gov/cae



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