

County Impacts Associated with Helene (2024)

Updates:

- [10/02/2024] - Initial issuance.

County Name	Injuries:	Fatalities:	Evacuations:
Monroe	None	None	None
<p>Wind Impacts in the Florida Keys of Monroe County consisted of several rain bands and gradient winds of lower tropical-storm force. Sustained winds in the 25 to 40 mph range with frequent gusts of 45 to 55 mph were most prevalent across the far western Lower Florida Keys and the City of Key West, with the peak gusts in the Middle and Upper Florida Keys mostly the result of outer rain squalls. Sporadic, short-duration power outages occurred with the largest outages affecting approximately 1,500 customers at a time across Lower Matecumbe and southwestern Upper Matecumbe Keys, and approximately 850 customers on Stock Island during the early morning of September 27th. Several instances of large tree limbs were downed mainly in the Lower and Middle Florida Keys along with a couple trees, with resulting utility line damage. Mostly light wind damage in the form of isolated small limbs and palm fronds was noted at the far northeast end of the Florida Keys, at Ocean Reef.</p> <p>Coastal flooding impacts from storm surge occurred in two episodes, with the first, oceanside storm surge peaking in the 1.4 to 1.8 foot MHHW range from Key West though Upper Matecumbe Key. This surge was accompanied by heavy wave action and wave run-up producing shallow flooding of several oceanfront yards and understories of raised residences, up to one foot deep on the oceanfront blocks of street in the southwest portion of Key West. State Road A1A, South Roosevelt Boulevard, was temporarily closed due to flooding between Bertha Street and the Key West International Airport due to coastal flooding. Shortly after Helene moved inland across the southeast United States, a second coastal flooding episode occurred across Florida Bay, peaking near 1.8 feet NAVD88 at Blackwater Sound. Bayfront streets flooded and became temporarily impassable to cars during the morning of September 27, 2024.</p> <p>Hurricane Helene’s distant passage to the west contributed to mostly low rainfall totals, with most rainfall totals associated with outer rain bands passing well in advance of Hurricane Helene’s closest approach to the Florida Keys. The highest measured total over a 3-day period was on central Big Pine Key, at 2.49 inches. Due to the rainfall not occurring during the hours of highest coastal flooding, freshwater flooding from rain was not reported.</p>			