



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Charlotte County State of Emergency Declared, Evacuations Ordered**

CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Fla. (Sept. 24, 2024) – The Charlotte County Commission on Tuesday declared a local state of emergency due to Tropical Storm Helene. The county is currently under a tropical storm and storm surge watch.

The current forecast indicates the earliest onset of tropical storm force winds by 10 p.m., Wed. night.

Evacuations have been ordered for barrier islands, low-lying and flood-prone areas, manufactured homes and any homes that may not withstand high winds such as those that may be comprised from previous storms.

Shelters will open at 1 p.m., Wednesday at Harold Avenue Regional Park, 23400 Harold Ave., in Port Charlotte and Kingsway Elementary School, 23300 Quasar Blvd., in Port Charlotte.

Tropical storm-force winds are forecast for parts of Charlotte County as early as late Wednesday night. Storm surge is forecast to be 3 to 5 feet in coastal areas.

For TS Helene information, call the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center at 941-833-4000.

Media and public can follow Charlotte County Emergency Management important emergency information at [www.charlottecountyfl.gov/em](http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/em), [www.facebook.com/oemcharlottecounty](https://www.facebook.com/oemcharlottecounty), and [www.twitter.com/ccoem](https://www.twitter.com/ccoem).

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