



Gilchrist County Emergency Management

3250 North US Hwy 129 Bell, FL 32619
Phone: (386) 935-5400 Fax: (386) 935-0294
website: <https://gilchristemergency.com/>



Hurricane Helene

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday September 26th @ 6:30 PM

Hurricane Helene is now a Category 4 hurricane.

If you plan to evacuate to Shelter this needs to be done now. We request that everyone be off the roads and hunkered down by nightfall due to the storm approaching.

*****Mandatory Evacuations for Substandard Housing, Recreational Vehicles, Mobile Homes, and Low-Lying Areas*****

Please take this storm seriously and make your plans quickly and get off the roads as soon as possible.

Mandatory Evacuations are in effect to ensure that our emergency services can get to citizens to render aid if needed. Emergency service vehicles will be unable to respond once the wind speeds exceed 40 mph. Gilchrist County is currently expected to have sustained winds in excess of 40 mph for 12 hours and potentially higher.

Hurricane Helene is expected to make landfall this afternoon. Current forecasts indicate that Gilchrist County can expect sustained tropical storm force winds, but there is a potential for a slight shift east, which could increase wind speeds to hurricane strength. Anticipate power outages, along with the potential for tornadoes and based on storm surge there is the potential for river flooding. If you need a ride to the shelter, please call immediately at 386-935-5418.

For Public Information Please call 386-935-5418

If you need a ride to shelter you can call this number as well, but this is only available while conditions are still safe.

All Shelters are Now Open

Please make sure to bring blankets and pillows to shelter.

Shelters

Bell High School Health Academy 930 S Main Street Bell, FL 32619

**Special Needs Center*

Bell High School Gym 930 S Main Street Bell, FL 32619

**General Population & Pet Friendly Shelter*

Trenton Elementary School 1350 SW SR 26 Trenton, FL 32693

**General Population Shelter*

Shelter Checklist:

- ✓ *Bring all medication*
- ✓ *Baby food, diapers, wipes, and formula*
- ✓ *Blankets & Pillows*
- ✓ *Toiletries and Snacks*
- ✓ *Citizens with animals at pet shelter must bring crate, food, water, up to date vaccinations, and medications.*