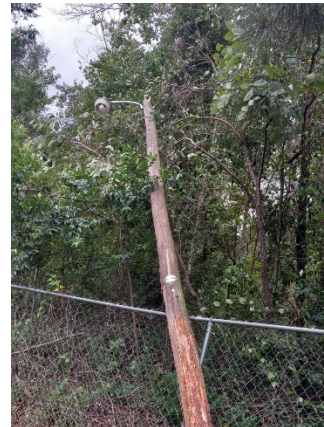




Town Newsletter

Special Edition - Hurricane Helene Recovery

*To help provide information for Hurricane Helene recovery, we're publishing this special edition. The regular monthly newsletter will be sent out **tomorrow, October 3.***



Photos from Town's Facebook page

Hurricane Helene Response in Swansea

Late last week, Hurricane Helene blew in and left her mark on Swansea and the surrounding area with heavy rainfall on [Thursday](#) followed by gusting winds on [Friday](#) morning. Just about everyone was impacted by power outages, flooding, and other issues directly related to this severe storm.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and offered assistance to the Swansea community during these last few days. While it was terrible to see the damage, it was good to see folks rally together to make a positive difference!

As we continue to recover from Helene, here's some information that may be useful:

- Cleanup assistance - If you need help with damage cleanup following Hurricane Helene, call Crisis Cleanup at [844-965-1386](tel:844-965-1386). Volunteers may be able to assist with mucking out mud and debris, cleaning up trees, tarping roofs, and clearing debris. While all services are free, service is not guaranteed.
- Homecoming – [Swansea High School varsity football team](#)'s homecoming game against Keenan has been moved to [Saturday, October 5](#), at 6:30 PM at Doug Bennett Stadium. (Go Tigers!)
- Lexington 4 School District – Students had e-learning days earlier in the week, but they returned to the classroom [today](#) with a 2-hour delay in start time.
- Property damage reporting – Contact your homeowner insurance company and follow their guidance on reporting property damage. SC Emergency Management Division also asks that you report property damage from Hurricane Helene, using the Damage Assessment tool in the SC Emergency Manager app to notify authorities. You can download the SC Emergency Manager app from the Apple App Store or GooglePlay.
- Power outages – Aiken Electric Cooperative and Dominion Energy are still restoring power to some customers in our area. Coop customers seem to be hardest hit, with about 395 meters in Lexington County without power.
- Roadway hazards – Lexington County is maintaining a list of road hazards within the county, resulting from last week's storm. As of [October 1](#), a few roads in the Swansea area remain inaccessible due to stormwater washout, damaged utility poles, or fallen trees. For updates, click [here](#).
- Emergency food assistance – [Harvest Hope's emergency food pantry](#) in Columbia (2220 Shop Road) may help those impacted by the storm. The emergency food pantry hours are [Monday](#) through [Thursday](#), 9 AM to 1 PM, and [Friday](#) from 9 AM to noon. Harvest Hope operates this service as a modified drive-through pantry; please be prepared to come inside for intake.
- FEMA assistance – See the article below from FEMA.
- Food spoilage – A household refrigerator will keep food safe for up to 4 hours during a power outage. Keep the door closed as much as possible. General guidance from the USDA is to discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers after 4 hours without power. After a power outage, never taste food to determine its safety. Instead, evaluate each item using [this chart](#) as a guide. **When in doubt, throw it out!**

If you have any questions about storm recovery, please call Town Hall at [803-568-2835](tel:803-568-2835).

FEMA Assistance Available for Hurricane Helene Recovery

South Carolina homeowners and renters in Lexington County and 12 other counties who had uninsured damage or losses caused by Hurricane Helene may be eligible for FEMA disaster assistance.

FEMA may be able to help with serious needs, displacement, temporary lodging, basic home repair costs, personal property loss or other disaster-caused needs. Homeowners and renters in Aiken, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, **Lexington**, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda and Spartanburg counties can apply.

There are several ways to apply: Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov, use the [FEMA App](#), or call [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362) from 7 AM to 11 PM ET daily. The telephone line is open every day, and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone, or other service, give FEMA your number for that service.

To view an accessible video on how to apply, visit [Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance](#) on YouTube.

FEMA's disaster assistance offers new benefits that provide flexible funding directly to survivors. In addition, a simplified process and expanded eligibility allows South Carolinians access to a wider range of assistance and funds for serious needs.

Before you apply, be sure to gather this information:

- A current phone number where FEMA representatives can contact you
- Your address at the time of the disaster and the address where you are now staying
- Your Social Security number
- A general list of damage and losses
- Banking information, if you choose direct deposit
- If insured, the policy number or the agent and/or the insurance company name.

If you have homeowners, renters, or flood insurance, you should file a claim as soon as possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. If your policy does not cover all your disaster expenses, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

For the latest information about South Carolina's recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster/4829.

Source: FEMA news release

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