

# State of Emergency: Hurricane Helene Threatens 'Unsurvivable' Storm Surge, 130-MPH Winds

As Hurricane Helene moves closer to the Florida coast, the storm is gaining strength and posing a serious threat to several states. Forecasters warn the storm could bring catastrophic flooding, dangerous winds, and life-threatening storm surge.

Meteorologists predict the storm could become a Category 4 hurricane with winds reaching 130 miles per hour and up to two feet of rain, potentially causing life-threatening flash floods.

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"You can hide from the wind, and there will be significant wind in this storm, but you've got to run from the water," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Twenty counties in Florida are under mandatory evacuation orders, while the entire state – along with Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina – is under a state of emergency. Meanwhile, state relief efforts are underway, with thousands of linemen stationed in Tampa.

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The Big Bend area could see between 10 and 20 feet of coastal flooding, which forecasters describe as an "unsurvivable"

storm surge.

“If our community remains central in Helene’s path, we will see unprecedented damage like nothing we have ever seen,” said Tallahassee Mayor John Dailey.

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