

From: [Gallas, Rebecca J](#)
To: [Gallas, Rebecca J](#)
Cc: [White, Julie A \(NCDOT\)](#); [Aviation All](#); [Barthe, Bridgette M](#); [Kritzer, Jamie B](#)
Subject: [Update] NC Airports Response to Hurricane Helene - Resilience and Support
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024 6:21:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Good morning NC airports and aviation partners-

The devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina is heartbreaking. However, amidst the hardship, we've also witnessed incredible stories of assistance, support, and community strength. Helene response has shown the world what all of those in the NC airport community already knew- NC airports are the backbone of North Carolina, connecting North Carolinians to food, water, medication, search & rescue and other emergency services when other access is unavailable. I wanted to use this update email to reflect and share with you all two of the many positive airport efforts we've seen in the last few days; Helene response continues to be challenging, but there are so many things for us in the airport community to be proud of.

- **Every public owned/public use airport in NC is now operational.** Avery County, the last airport with no known status, was reached and is now partially running off a generator to pump fuel and run operations. NC airports fared well with damage limited to hangars, fencing and other areas that do not impact the ability of aircraft to take off/land. NOTAM's and TFR's are changing quickly based on emergency response operational needs, so please continue to monitor those.
- **Airports helping airports.** Through both peer-to-peer outreach and the assistance of NCDOT, NC airports and FBO staff are showing up to support impacted airports. Western NC airport employees are facing unprecedented levels of operations while also grappling with storm impacts to homes, families and communities. To support safe and sustainable operations, many airports have mobilized teams to airports, at the request and agreement of impacted airports.
 - The most significant transfer of staff has occurred into Asheville Regional Airport, with Commercial Service airports across the state and into other states coming together to schedule shifts of expert teams to augment the AVL staff.
 - Several general aviation airports, including Raleigh Executive Jetport (TTA), Harnett Regional Jetport (HRJ), Laurinburg-Maxton Airport (MEB), and Moore County Airport (SOP), also mobilized staff to assist impacted GA airports. If

you sent staff and were not included in this list, please let me know so I can be sure to recognize your staff when opportunity arises.

- If you would like to be added to NCDOT's list of potential staff resources for GA airports, please reach out to Jason Schronce (jbschronce@ncdot.gov).

A sincere thank you to all airport personnel, consultants, and partners for their unwavering dedication to supporting North Carolina during this challenging time.

Thanks,
Becca

Becca Gallas, P.E.
Director
Division of Aviation
North Carolina Department of Transportation

919 814 0573 – office
984 327 7350 - cell

RJGallas@ncdot.gov

1050 Meridian Drive
Morrisville, NC 27560

1560 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1560



Email correspondence to and from this address is subject to the North Carolina Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

Follow the Division of Aviation on social media:



Email correspondence to and from this sender is subject to the N.C. Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.