



Situational Update

October 2, 2024

Emergency services- Having already activated the statewide mutual aid plan the Sheriff's office has received extensive support from numerous other departments including Stanly, Catawba, Chatham, Alamance, Wayne, and the Stanfield Police Department. Also operating are the Burnsville Police Department and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. FEMA and the National Guard are on the ground and providing support to the ongoing recovery and relief efforts.

The Yancey County EMS Director had ordered an ambulance strike team and received 5 ALS units to bolster the current EMS system. A second order for an ambulance strike team was sent and another 5 ALS units arrived last night to augment the current staffing and response to increased calls for service as well as increased response and transport times.

The Blue Ridge Regional Hospital is still up and running, they are operating on generator but fully operational. A federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) has set up in the parking lot and has similar capabilities as the hospital to assist with care. Burnsville Health Center urgent care is opening today (10/02/2024) with hours from 09:00-12:00

Cell phone towers- Still a work in progress, some of the tower sites are still in working order but access to maintain them and get them back up and running is difficult due to post storm conditions. Crews are actively clearing and improving roadways to these sites to allow access for essential crews.

Pod sites- POD sites are distributing water, MRE's, and ice and currently operating out of the local fire stations with a plan to transition to two centralized locations. These new sites have already been identified and preparations are being made to get these sites up and running by Thursday.

Shelter sites- Blue Ridge Elementary School has reached capacity and we've opened a second shelter location at Cane River Middle School. If needed, we can also open a third site as the need arises. These sites are being managed and staffed by the American Red Cross.

Electric service- is beginning to come on in areas that are able to safely receive electricity.

Water Treatment- The Burnsville Public Works is working diligently to get the water plant back up and running. Engineers, contractors, and crews are getting pumps in place to bring water back into the plant, once its determined the plant can sustain operations they will begin turning feeder lines on to distribute water. As feeders are turned back on crews will be able to determine if and where any leaks are to begin further repairs. Once reestablished the water must be boiled until the system can be flushed and sanitized. The water will be usable for showering and flushing toilets though.

Waste water treatment- The plant is completely offline until major repairs can be completed. Engineers have been brought in the evaluate these issues and expedite repairs.

Volunteer donations- All donations are being directed to Altec and will be distributed out from there.

Comfort stations- Mobile laundry facilities are available in the GO Grocery parking lot. Updates regarding the setup of shower and bathroom facilities will be provided as those details become available.

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