

# Hurricane Florence: Rain this heavy comes along once every 1,000 years

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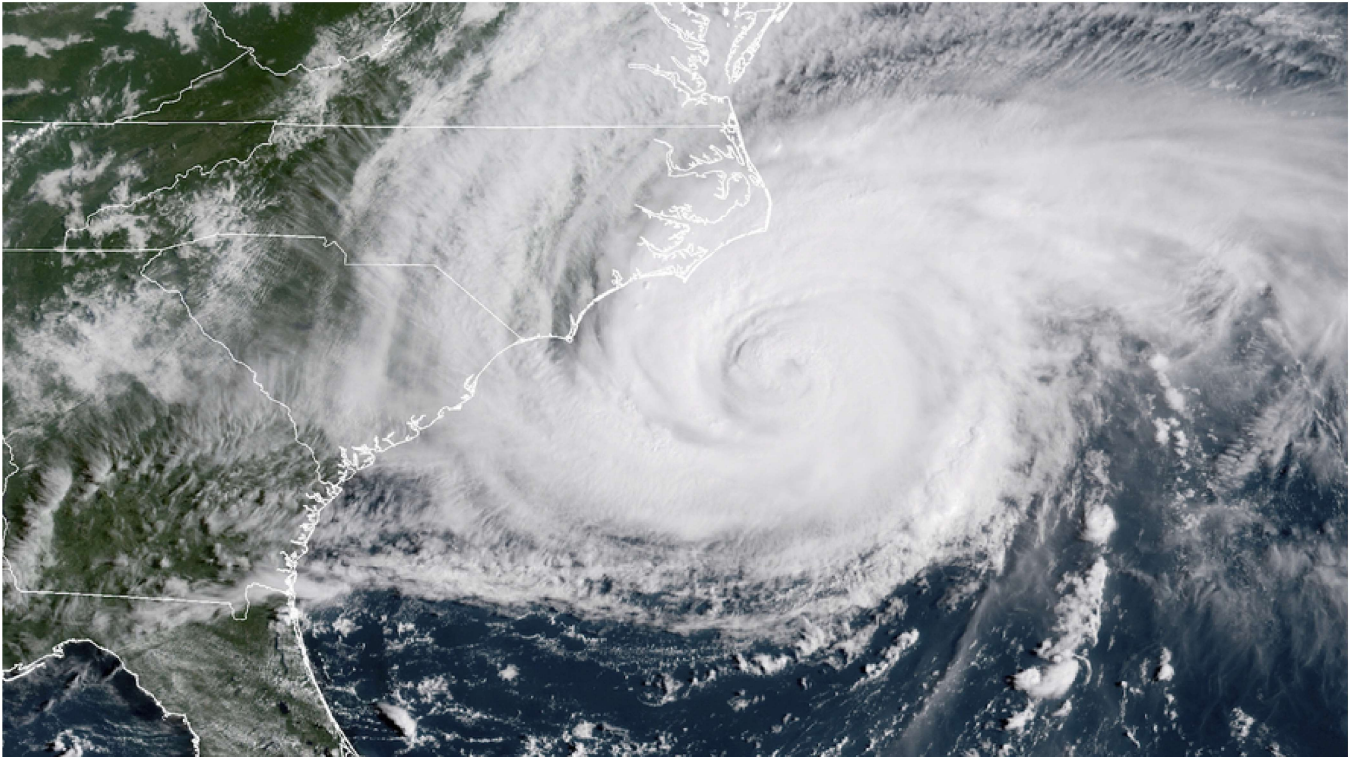


Image 1. This satellite image provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Hurricane Florence on the eastern coast of the United States on September 14, 2018. Photo by: NOAA via AP

WILMINGTON, North Carolina — Hurricane Florence stormed into North Carolina on Friday, September 14. Florence came with howling winds of 90 miles per hour (mph). Buildings crumbled under the wind pressure. The hurricane caused the ocean to rise, too. The flooding trapped hundreds of people.

A hurricane is a major storm with high winds and heavy rains. A hurricane gathers force over ocean water before moving to land. Experts said Florence could prove long and extraordinarily destructive. More than 60 people had to be pulled from a crumbling motel at the height of the storm. Hundreds more had to be rescued elsewhere from rising waters.

"You may need to move up to the second story, or to your attic," the city of New Bern, North Carolina's Twitter account tweeted around 2 a.m. "But WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU."

## Flattened Trees, Chewed-Away Roads

Florence unloaded heavy rain, flattened trees and chewed away at roads. More than 500,000 homes and businesses lost power.

Forecasters said the storm on the North Carolina-South Carolina coast would last for hours. This is because the hurricane had almost come to a dead stop. The winds were measured at 3 mph by mid-Friday.

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said the hurricane could wipe out entire communities and "grind across our state for days." Rain this heavy comes along once every 1,000 years, Cooper said.

As of Sunday afternoon, 17 people had been reported dead.



## Wind Speeds Between 74 And 97 MPH

Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane at 7:15 a.m. Friday at Wrightsville Beach. The beach is a few miles east of Wilmington, North Carolina. The hurricane landed along a mostly boarded-up, emptied-out coastline. A Category 1 hurricane has the lowest level of wind. Speeds are still between 74 and 95 mph.

Florence's storm surge had become a bigger danger than the winds. Storm surge is a rise in the ocean level. The possibility of 1 to 3½ feet of rain also proved more dangerous than the winds.

Earlier last week, Florence had been classified as a Category 4 hurricane. Winds had reached an alarming 140 mph before weakening as it got closer. Forecasters said destructive freshwater flooding was expected far into the inland over the weekend. Florence was going to keep crawling west across the Carolinas.

## Emergency Workers Prepared For The Worst

The area was expected to get about as much rain in three days as Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd dropped in 1999. That happened over two weeks, though. Emergency workers prepared for the worst as the storm hit. About 9,700 National Guard troops and civilians were sent out. They rode in high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats to grab people from the floodwaters.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is a national government group. FEMA helps cities and states with emergencies. Hurricane Florence was a major test for FEMA. People say the group did not do a good job last year. Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico last year. They say the group was slow and unprepared for the hurricane. Hurricane Maria killed 3,000 people.



## 18 Trillion Gallons Of Rain

Florence is expected to dump about 18 trillion gallons of rain. Ryan Maue is a meteorologist. He studies the weather. Maue said that amount of rain could fill more than 65,000 Empire State Buildings.

Coastal streets in the Carolinas flowed with ocean water. Pieces of torn-up buildings flew through the air. The few cars on a street in Wilmington had to avoid fallen trees, metal garbage and power lines.

The Wilmington airport had a wind gust measured at 105 mph. That mark was the highest since Hurricane Helene in 1958, the weather service said.

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, firefighters and police fought wind and rain. They went door-to-door to pull people out of the Triangle Motor Inn. The building had begun crumbling.

Farther up the coast, in New Bern, flooding on the Neuse River trapped people. Mayor Dana Outlaw said about 200 had been rescued by 5 a.m. Friday.

More than 12,000 people went to shelters in North Carolina. Officials said 1.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were warned to leave their homes. It was not clear how many people followed the warning. More than 3,000 prisoners were moved out of the storm's path in North Carolina.

## Quiz

1 Read the section "Flattened Trees, Chewed-Away Roads."

Which sentence from the section shows why the storm could stay a long time on the coast?

- (A) Florence unloaded heavy rain, flattened trees and chewed away at roads.
- (B) More than 500,000 homes and businesses lost power.
- (C) This is because the hurricane had come almost to a dead stop.
- (D) Rain this heavy comes along once every 1,000 years, Cooper said.

2 Read the section "18 Trillion Gallons Of Rain."

Select the paragraph from the section that shows some damage caused by Hurricane Florence.

- (A) Florence is expected to dump about 18 trillion gallons of rain. Ryan Maue is a meteorologist. He studies the weather. Maue said that amount of rain could fill more than 65,000 Empire State Buildings.
- (B) Coastal streets in the Carolinas flowed with ocean water. Pieces of torn-up buildings flew through the air. The few cars on a street in Wilmington had to avoid fallen trees, metal garbage and power lines.
- (C) The Wilmington airport had a wind gust measured at 105 mph. That mark was the highest since Hurricane Helene in 1958, the weather service said.
- (D) More than 12,000 people went to shelters in North Carolina. Officials said 1.7 million people in the Carolinas and Virginia were warned to leave their homes. It was not clear how many people followed the warning. More than 3,000 prisoners were moved out of the storm's path in North Carolina.

3 According to the introduction [paragraphs 1-3], how did New Bern respond to people trapped because of the hurricane?

- (A) They came in high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats to rescue people out of hotels.
- (B) They came in high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats to rescue people from their homes.
- (C) They told people to get to higher ground and they went knocking door-to-door to find them.
- (D) They told people to get to higher ground and that they would come get them as soon as they could.

- 4 What is the relationship between Hurricane Florence and the 1999 Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd?
- (A) Hurricane Florence will drop more rain and move faster than those hurricanes did.
  - (B) Hurricane Florence will drop less rain and move slower than those hurricanes did.
  - (C) Hurricane Florence will drop the same amount of rain in the same amount of time as those hurricanes did.
  - (D) Hurricane Florence will drop the same amount of rain in a few days as those hurricanes did in a few weeks.