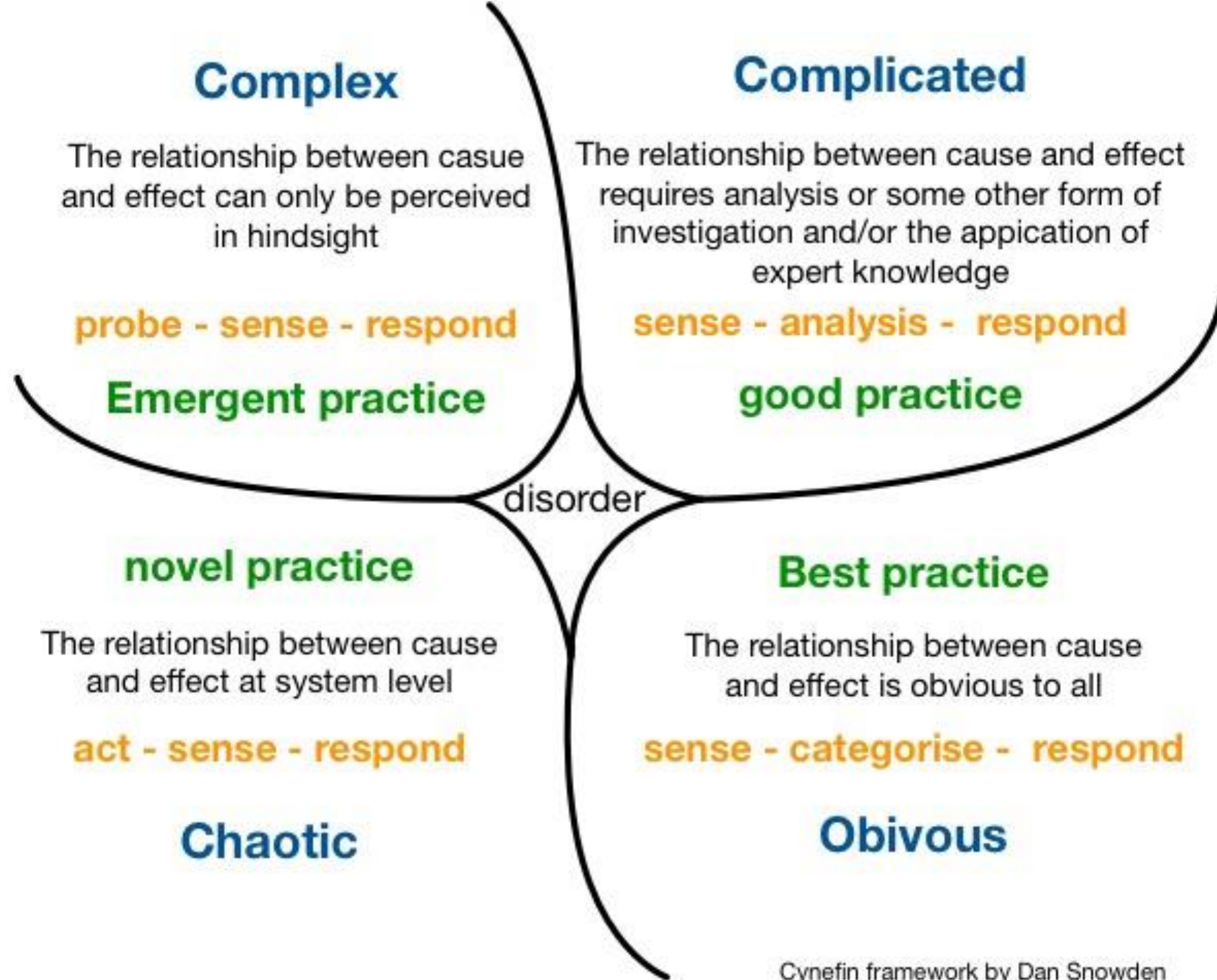
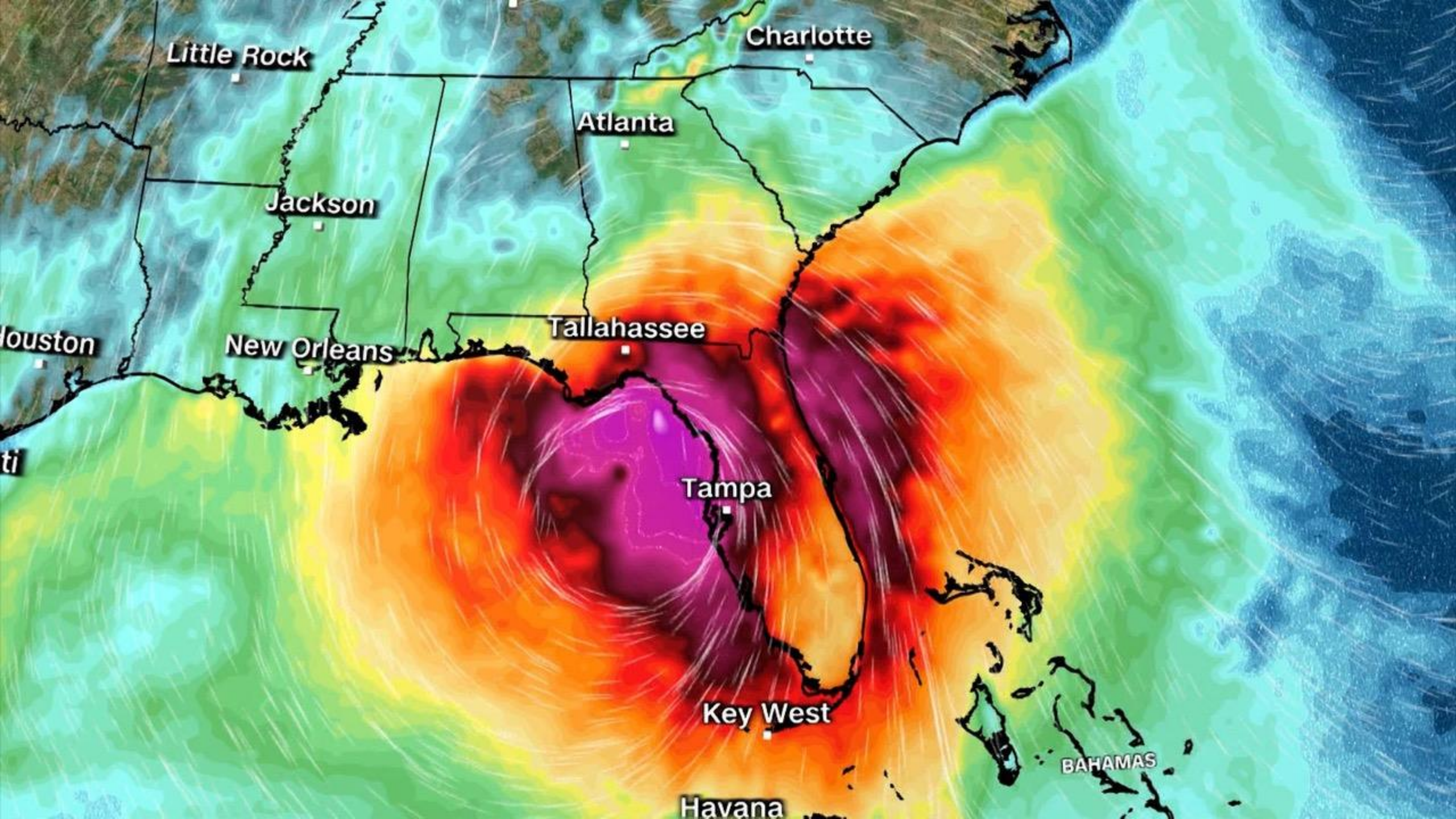


# UNIMAGINABLE DISASTER

Helene in North Carolina

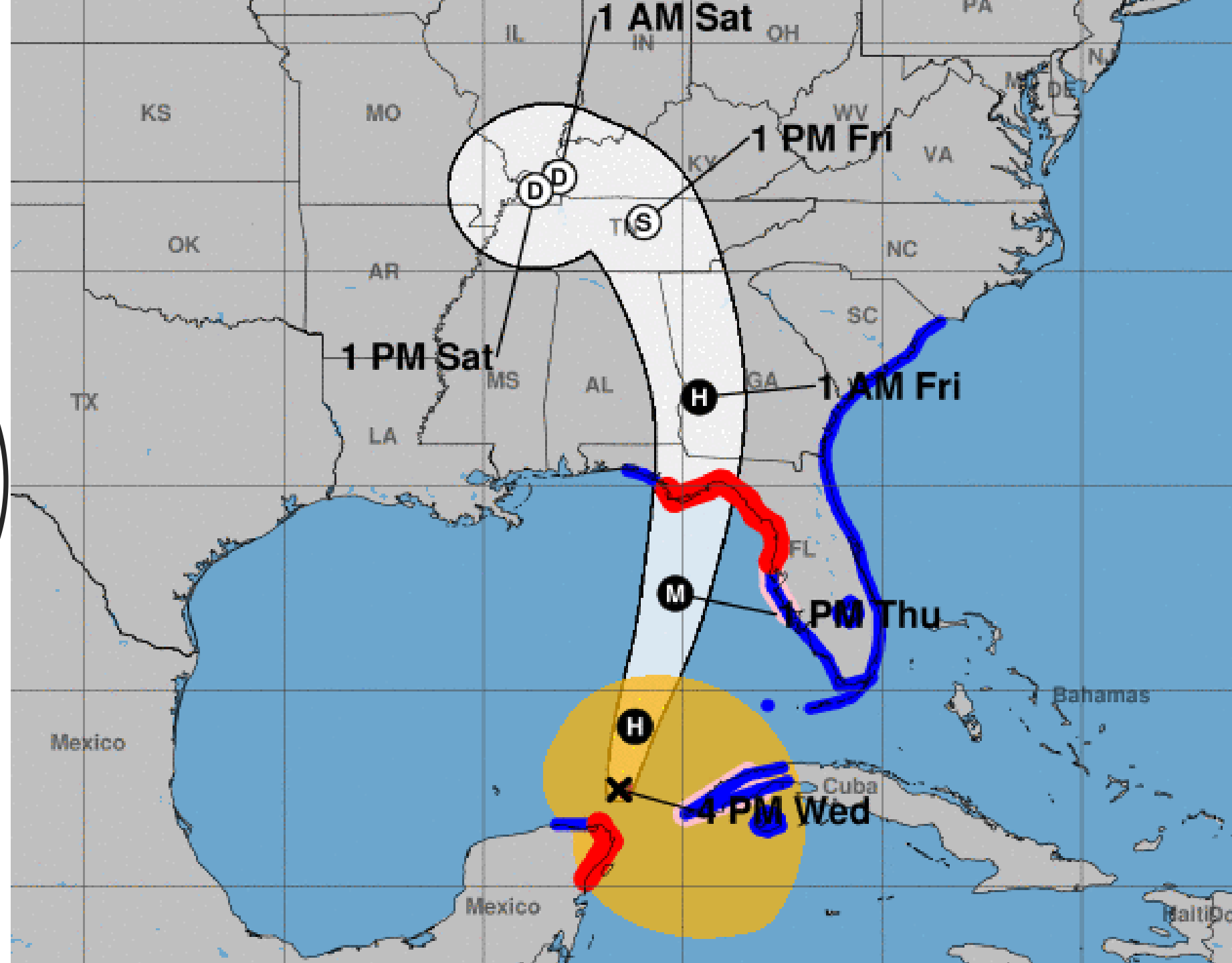






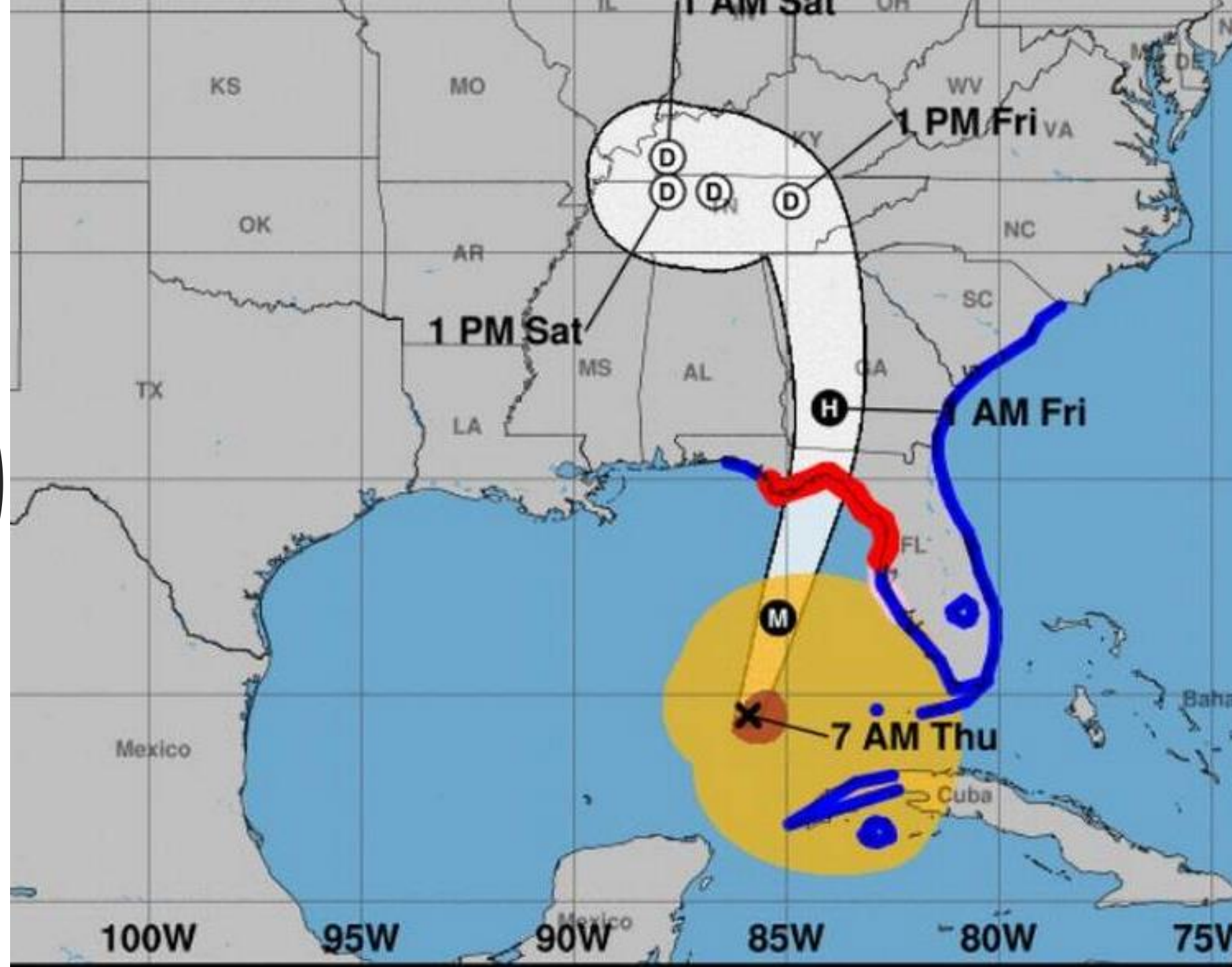


Wednesday  
9/25





Thursday  
9/26





# Storm Total Rainfall

Now through 2 AM Sat Sept 28

Weather Forecast Office  
Greenville-Spartanburg

Issued Sep 26, 2024 11:27 AM EDT



Thursday  
9/26

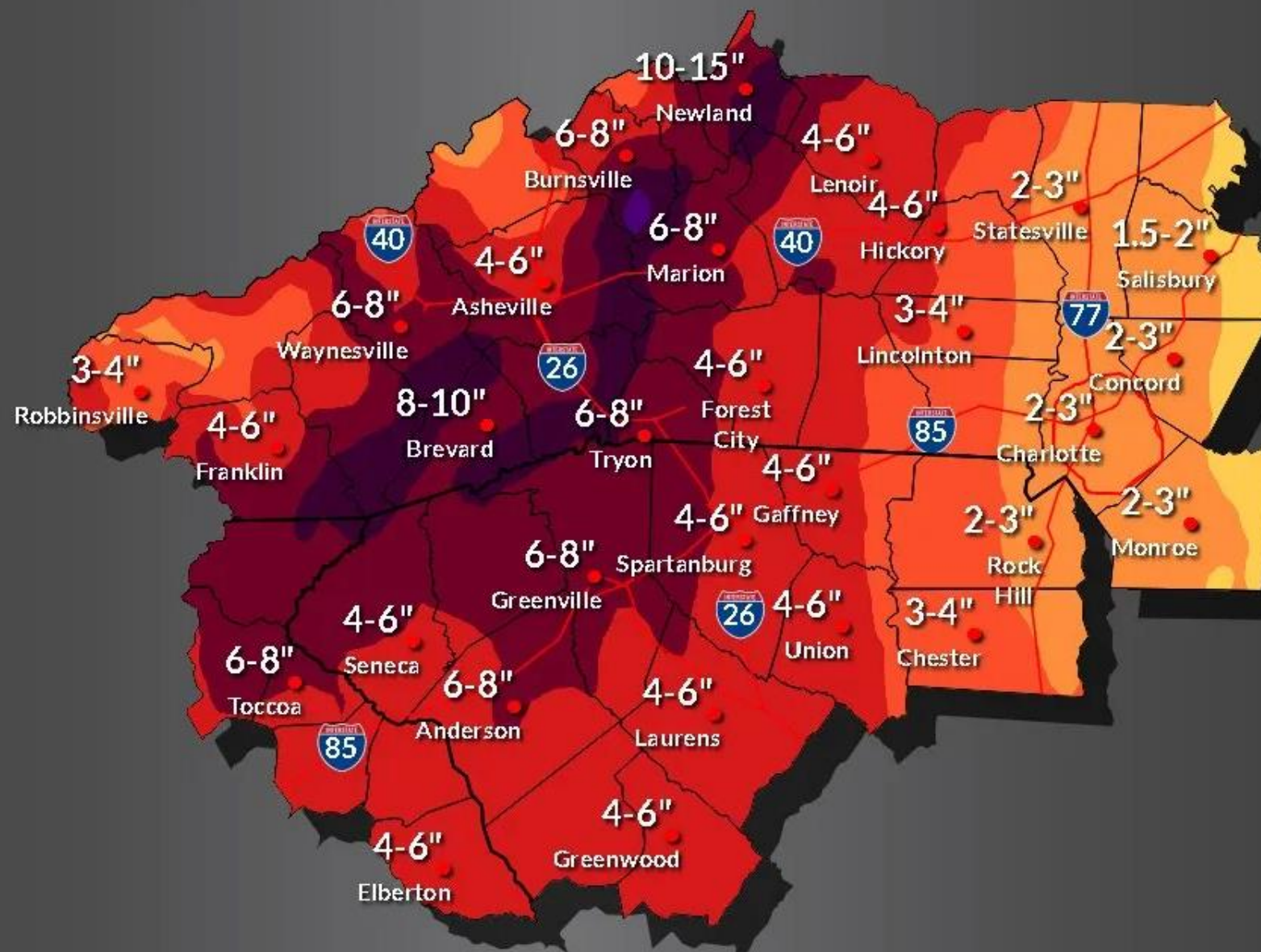


Table Rock  
Mountain  
1198m



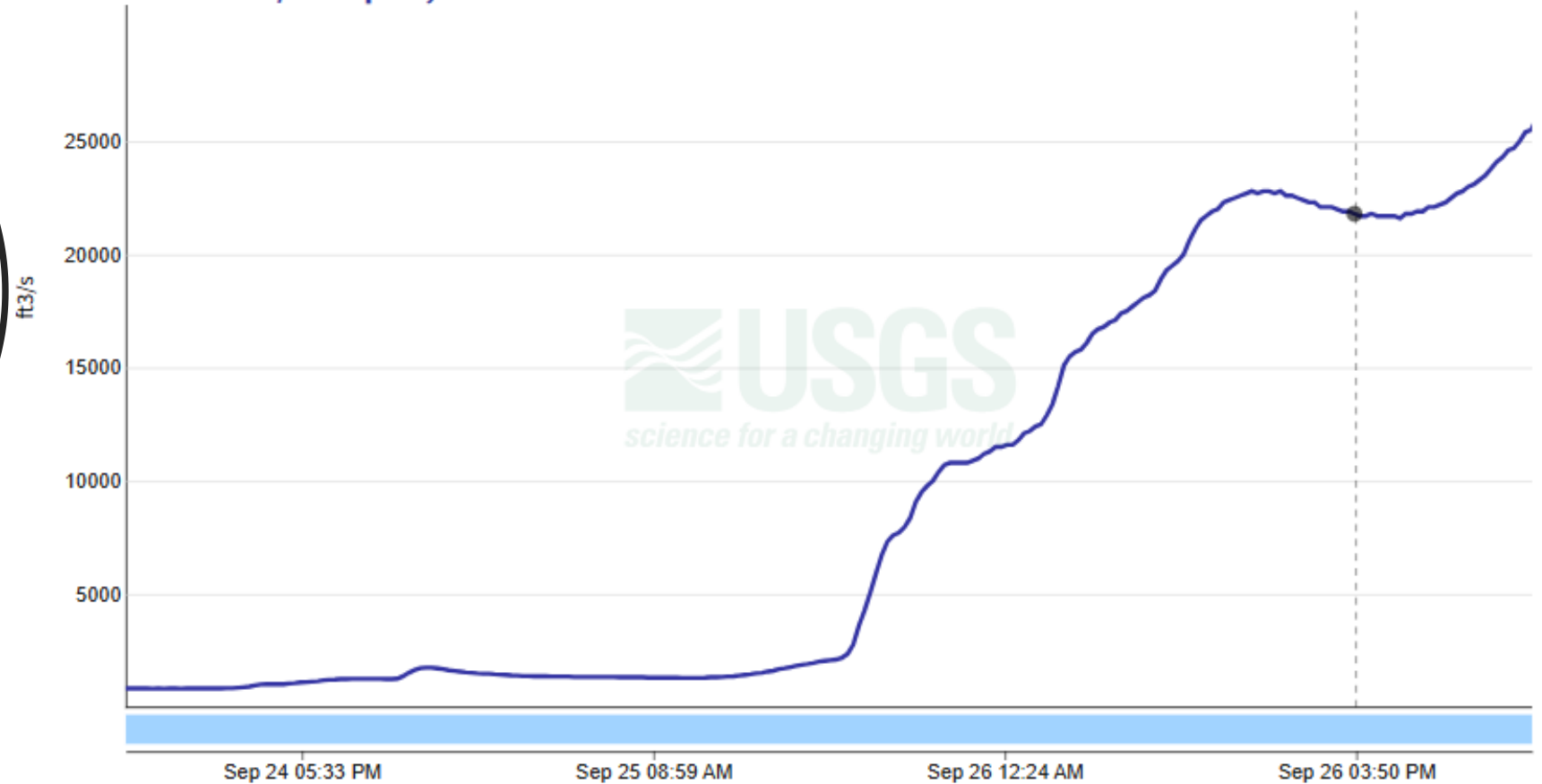
# French Broad River at Asheville, NC - 03451500

September 24, 2024 - September 26, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

21800 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Sep 26, 2024 03:45:00 PM EDT

Thursday  
9/26



Friday  
9/27



inches

5 to 8

8 to 10

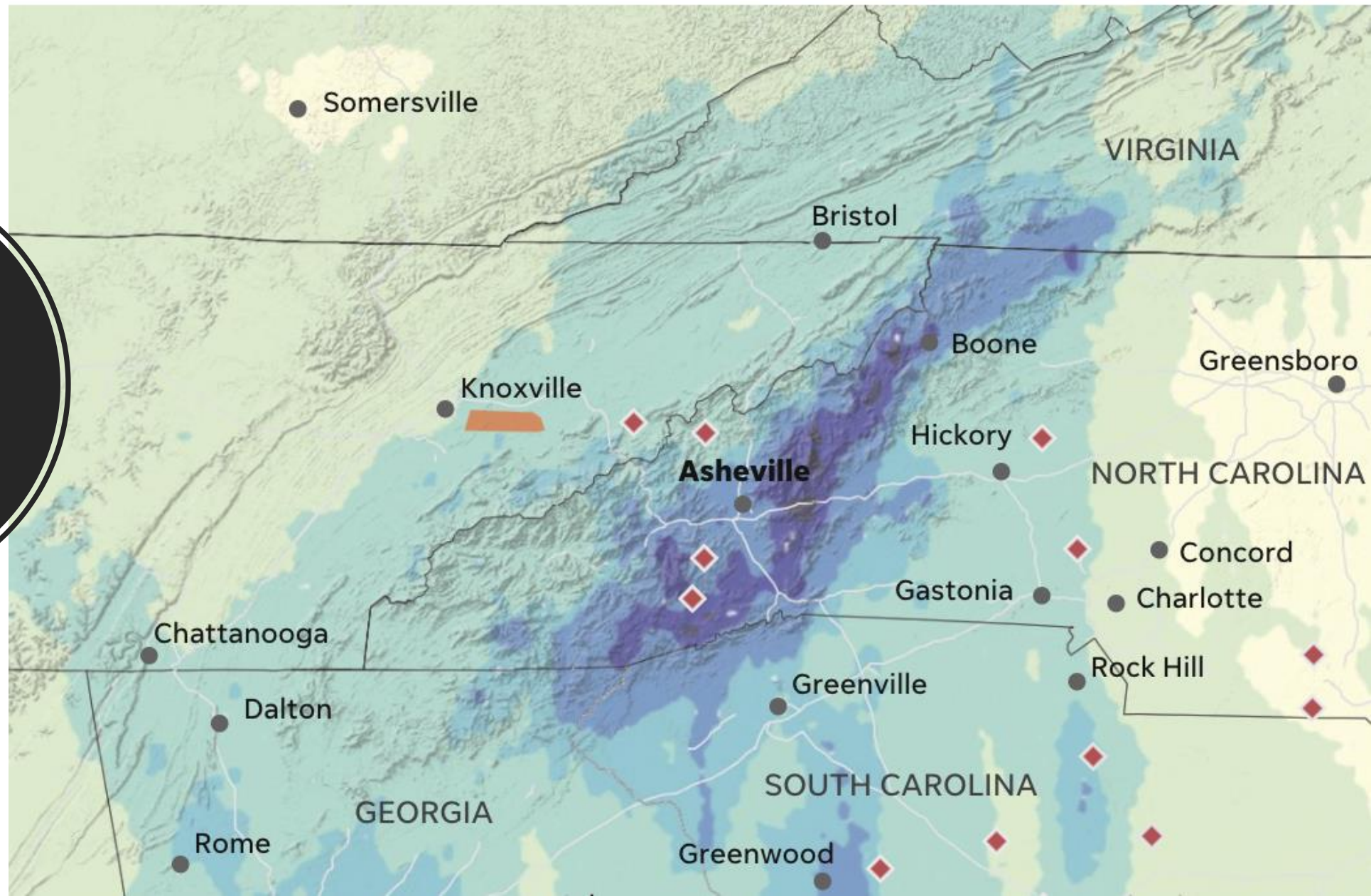
10 to 15

More than 15

Flood warning

River gauge flooding

Friday  
9/27



# > HELENE'S WINDS

>> ASSESSED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



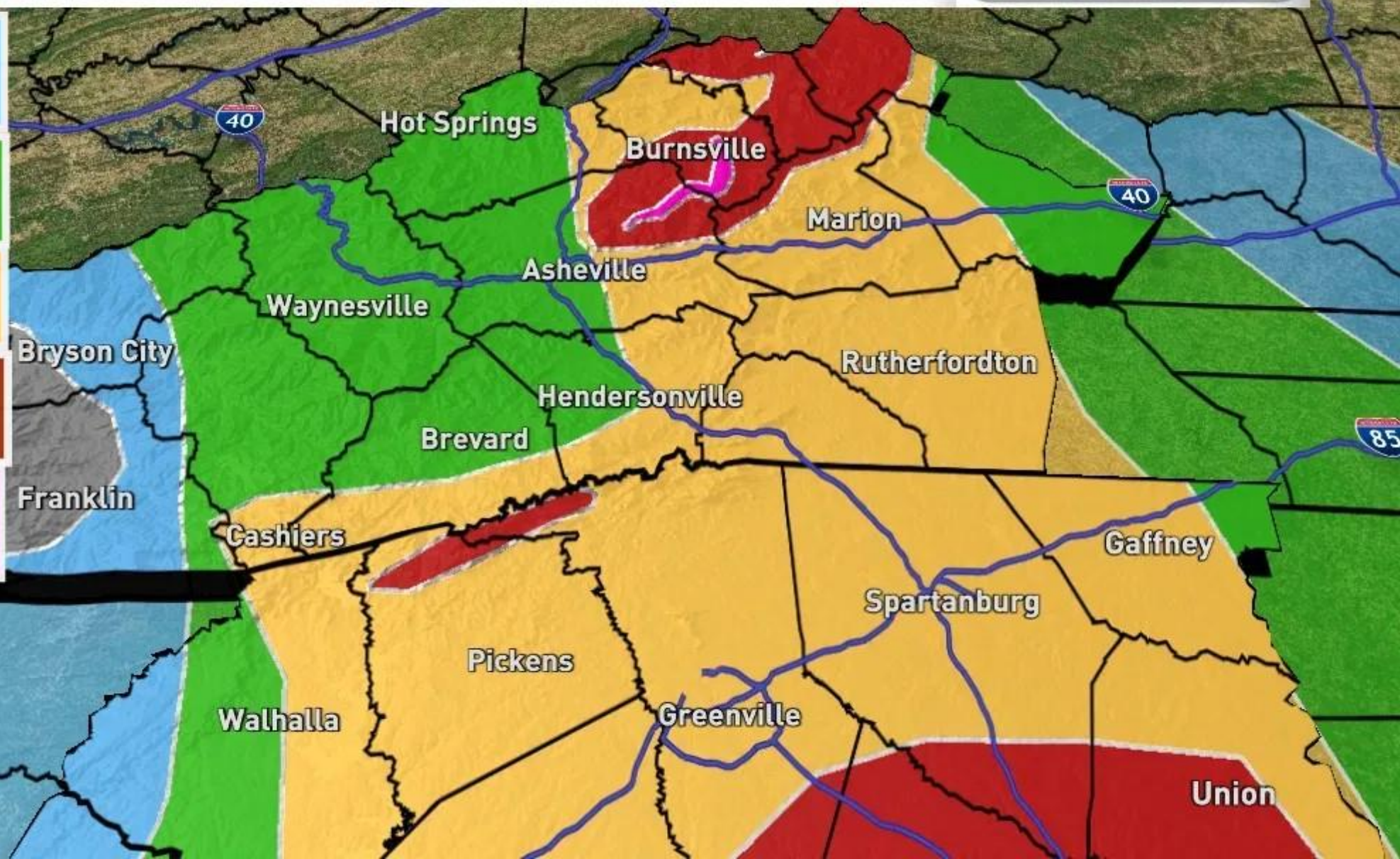
40-50 mph  
Gusts to 60

50-60 mph  
Gusts to 70

60-70 mph  
Gusts to 80

70-80 mph  
Gusts to 90

80-90 mph  
Gusts to 100



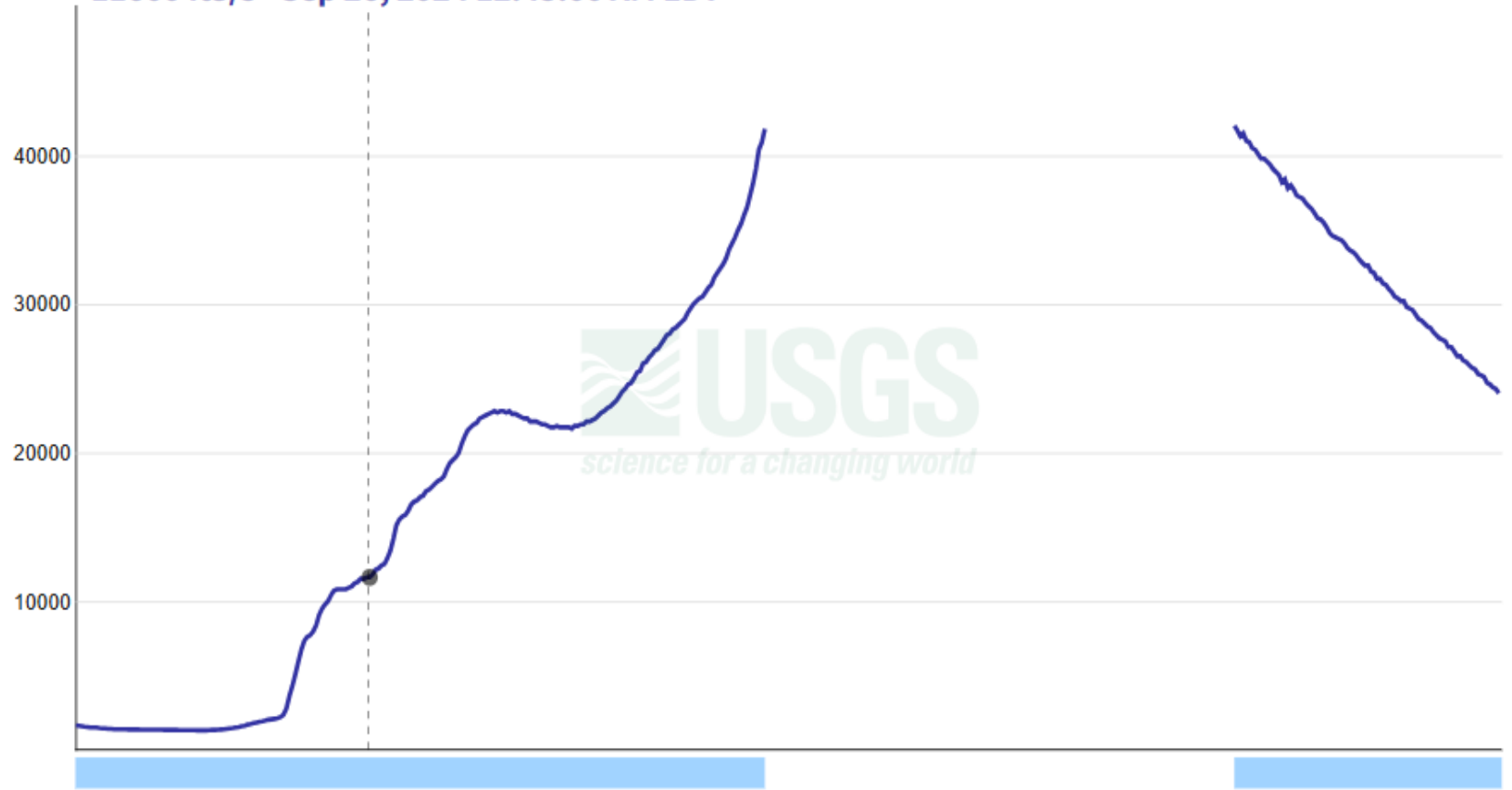
# French Broad River at Asheville, NC - 03451500

September 25, 2024 - September 29, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

11600 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Sep 26, 2024 12:45:00 AM EDT

Friday  
9/27













Wendy's



ASAHA  
Japanese Restaurant

DRIVE THRU

QUALITY  
IS OUR RECIPE

Wendy's





NC-9

Chimney Rock  
Village



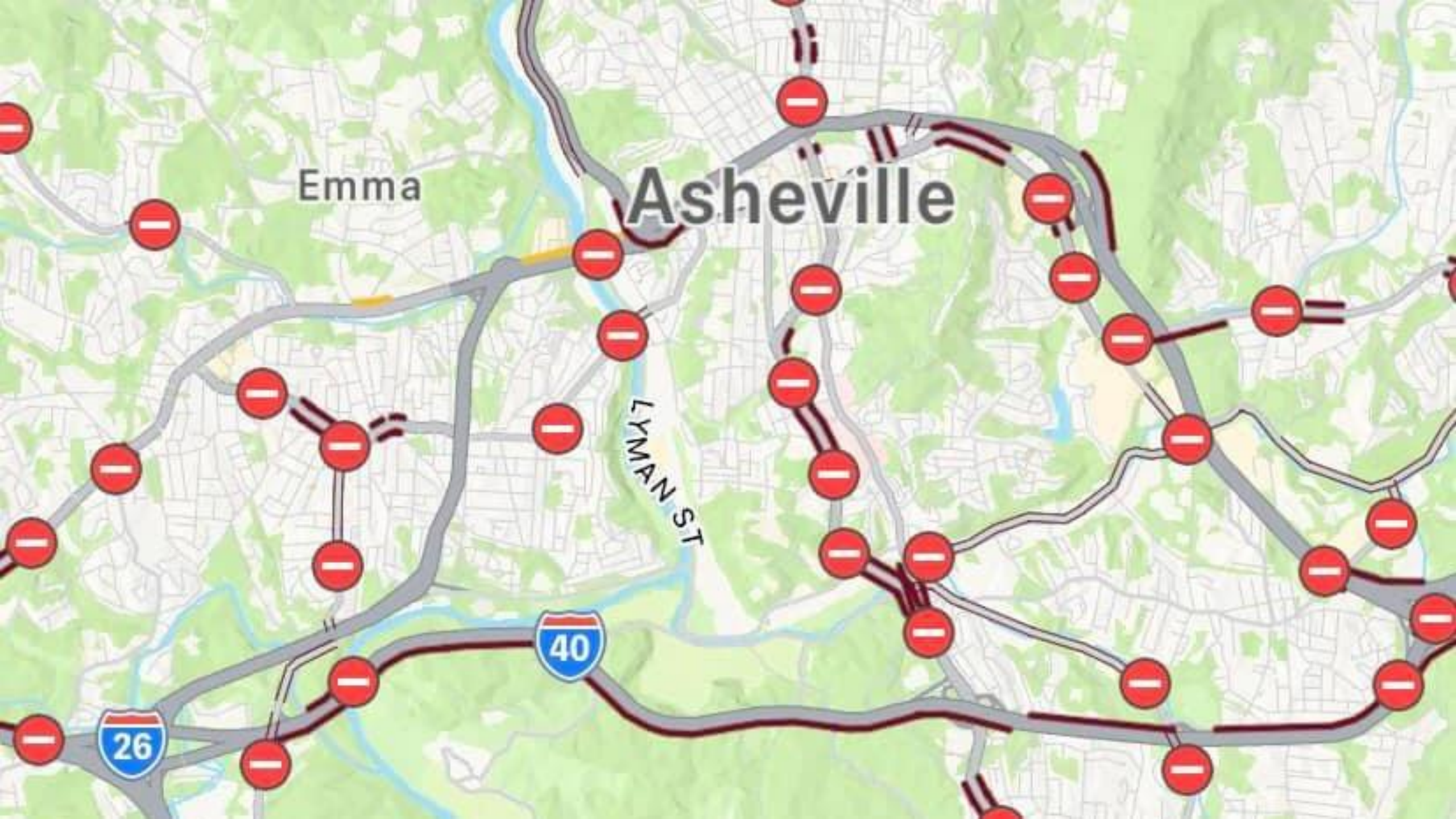
Chimney Rock  
Village



















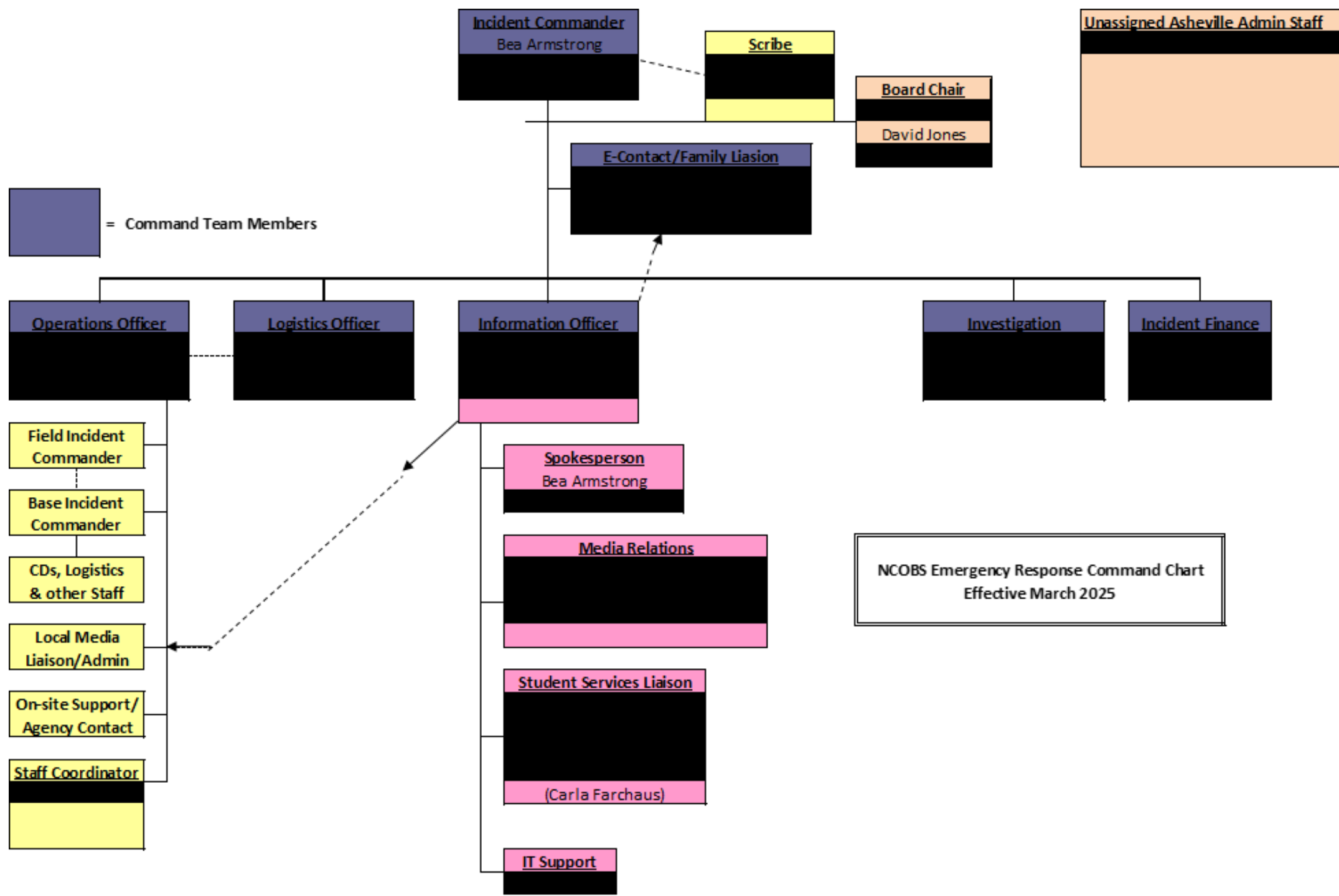














# Student Evacuation Operation

## **Saturday 9/28, Day 1 (after storm):**

- No power, no internet, limited phone service from bases (still better than in Asheville)
- One base has one working generator
- Only 3 admin staff with communication ability
- Student safety and care
- Assessing damage, supplies, and resources on base
- Assessing school and government support
- 60 students and staff at Table Rock
- 20 students and staff at Cedar Rock





# Student Evacuation Operation

## **Sunday 9/29, Day 2:**

- Power returns to Table Rock (and therefore water and internet)
- Assessing damage to access roads
- Cedar Rock able to evacuate students – staff able come and go
- Safety Director evacuates Asheville
- Evaluating evacuation options for staff and students





**Roughly 30 Philadelphia high school students still stranded following camping trip in North Carolina**

LOCAL NEWS

## **Philadelphia Girard College students still sheltering in place on North Carolina mountain after Helene**

### **Girard College students temporarily stranded in North Carolina due to flood-damaged roads**

Thirty-one students went on an Outward Bound trip in North Carolina last week but were unable to return because of damaged roads caused by flooding from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

### **Girard College students stranded – but safe – in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene**

The ninth graders were participating in an Outward Bound program in Asheville. The school says they will return when road conditions improve.

# Student Evacuation Operation

## **Monday 9/30, Day 3:**

- Clearing evacuation route
  - NCOBS staff clearing hiking path out
  - USFS staff clearing 4WD road in
- Gathering and transporting staff, vehicles, and supplies, staging for evacuation:
  - Four 4WD trucks, two 15p vans,
  - 6 staff
  - Fuel, food, medication from Davidson, NC
- Planning and communicating evacuation plan





# Student Evacuation Operation

---

- **Day 4: Part 1**
  - 8am – Students hike from base, staff stage 4WD vehicles





A map showing a hiking trail in North Carolina. The trail is marked with blue dots and runs from the bottom left towards the top left. It passes by a river and a road. A callout box indicates a 2.1-mile segment taking 52 minutes. The trail is labeled 'Table Rock Rd' and 'National Forest Rd'. The starting point is marked with a circle and labeled 'North Carolina Outward Bound - Table Rock'. The background is a light green map with blue lines for water and grey lines for roads.

 **52 min**  
2.1 miles

 **North Carolina Outward  
Bound - Table Rock**

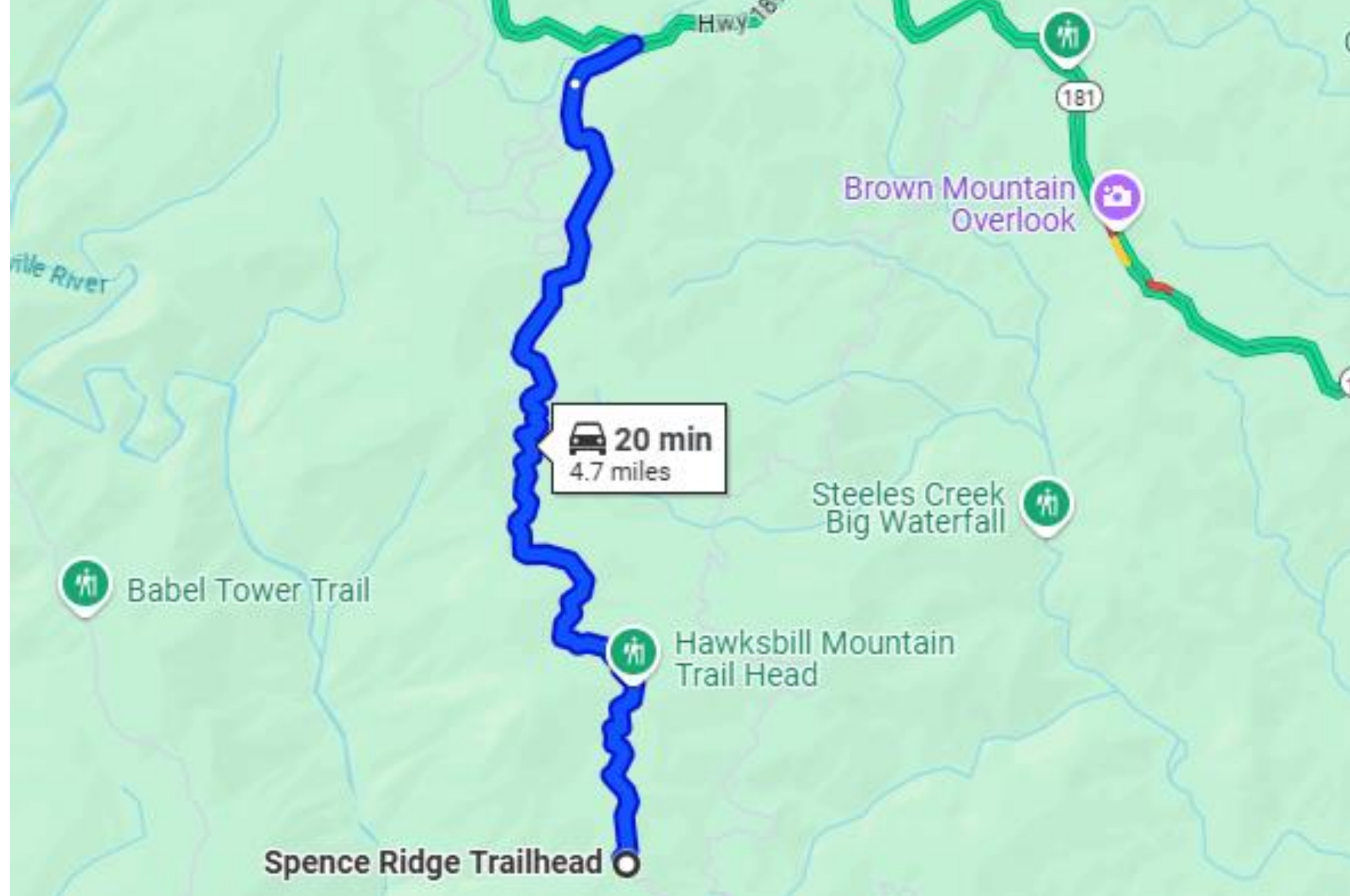
le Rock Mountain

# Student Evacuation Operation

---

- **Day 4: Part 2**
  - 9:30am – 4WD shuttling 4 miles and passing of supplies to base staff



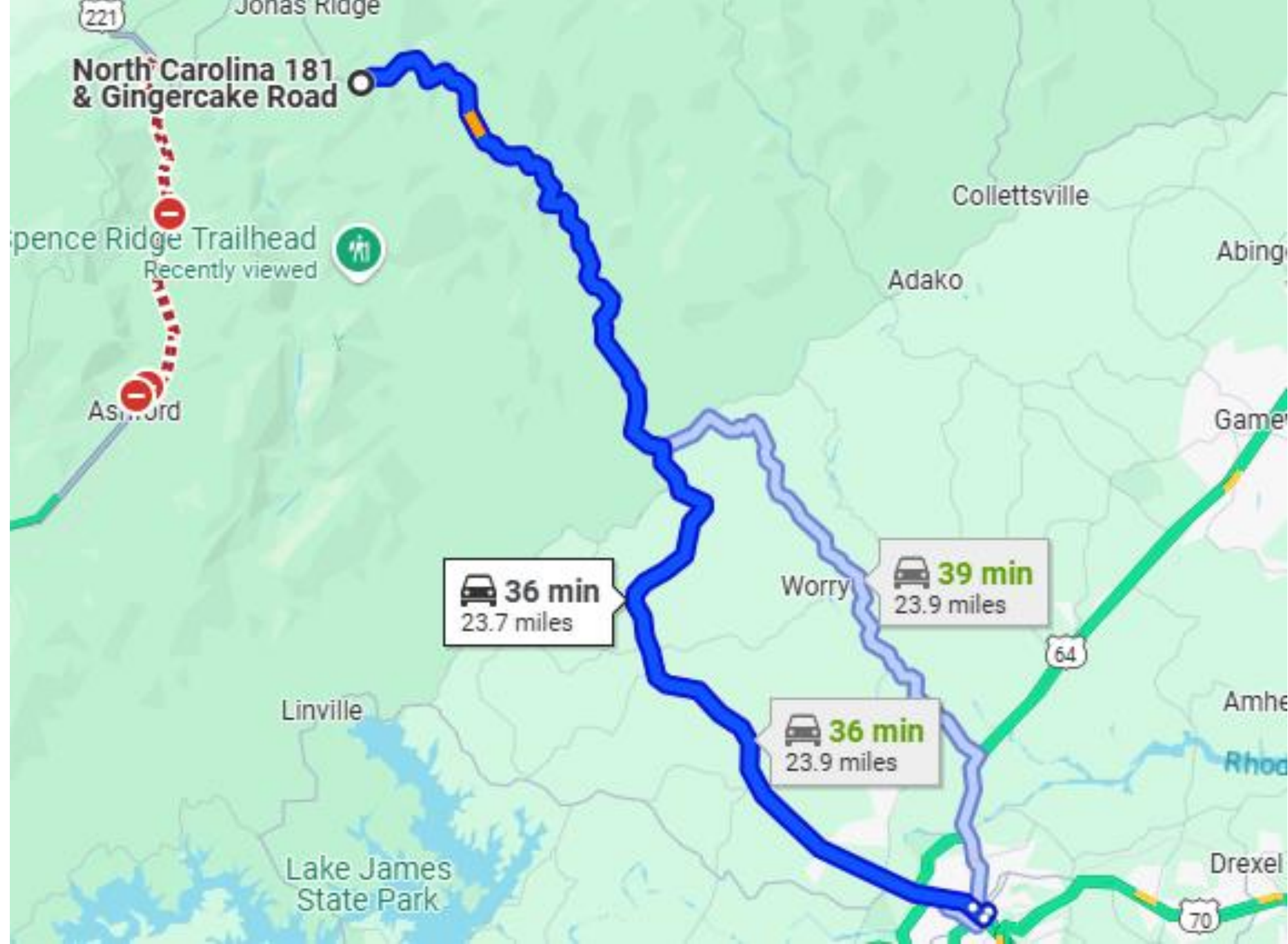


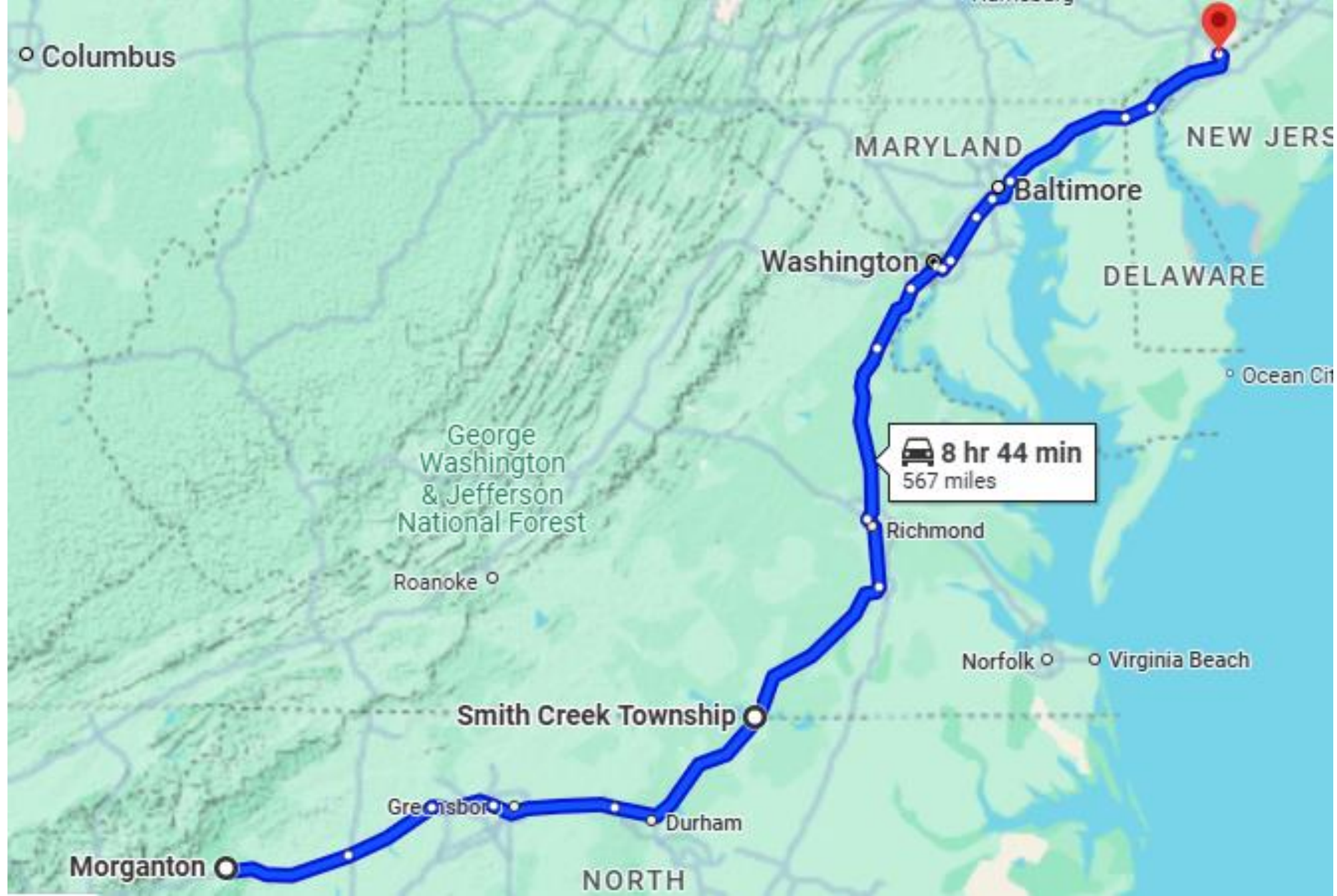
# Student Evacuation Operation

---

- **Day 4: Part 3**
  - 11am – Van and truck shuttling approx. 1 hour to Morganton, NC
  - 1:30pm – Students depart on Charter bus
  - Staff stage vehicles for future use and haul supplies to base











# On the Ground

- Field and Base Staff
- Water, food, and some power at bases
- Satellite phones, landlines, and cell phones
- Skyrunner & Starlink internet
- Chainsaws, 4WD vehicles, and a tractor
- Student wellness & engagement
- Relationships with Forest Service and EMS



# Organization

- Relationships – OBUSA, local communities, partner organizations, groups clients
- Flexibility in course areas/locations
- NCOBS' care for staff
- Business interruption insurance
- Staff service to the community (53 days of volunteer work from Cedar Rock staff between storm and base closure for season)



# Mental Health Support

- Increased EAP sessions
- In-person and online workshop series
  - Our Nervous Systems Now
  - Claiming Purpose: Rebuilding in the Aftermath
  - Honoring Our Grief: Navigating Individual & Collective Loss









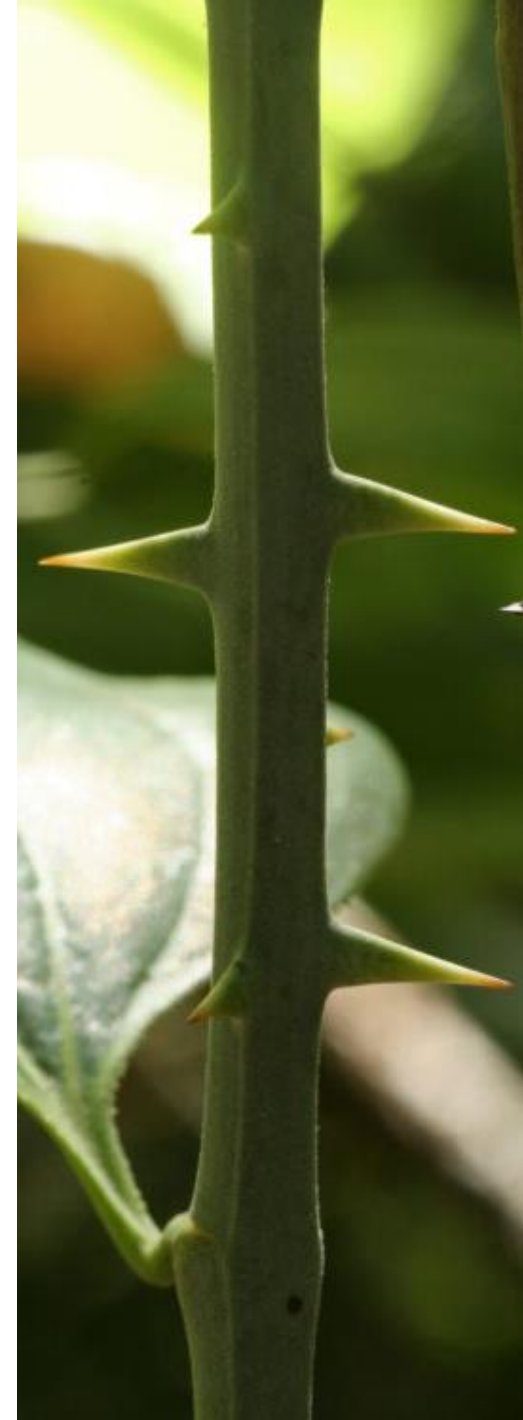


To  
Reconstruction

From  
Destruction



- Collapse and/or overwhelming of systems: water, power, communications, transportation
- Chainsaws & generators (gas, training, maintenance)
- ERP relies on functioning communication systems
- Staff priorities in a disaster
- Variable staff resiliency
- Long-term damage to environment/course area



- Risk to students vs. risk of students
- Parent, media, and politician management
- Reliance on public systems (EMS, land managers, etc.)
- Toilet water
- Overwhelming regional needs (especially \$) and losses (including life)
- “Not the flood but the fire next time”



- Supplies and training for base isolation (chainsaws, generators, water storage/treatment, etc.)
- Fire breaks & tree removal
- Hardening of communication systems
- Formalizing/systematizing collaborative responses
- Solar? Base battery banks? Micro-hydro?



- Resources and information for regional course areas
- Systems for flexible course area use
- Relationship building
- Investment in resilient programming options (e.g., on-base programming, regional facilities)



[ASchwartz@ncobs.org](mailto:ASchwartz@ncobs.org)

