

# WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## **WREC Media Contact:**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative Alerts Members: Storm Preparation is Key**

September 24, 2024, Dade City, FL — As Tropical Storm Helene moves northward, it's anticipated to strengthen into a potentially dangerous hurricane before making landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida. Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) is urging all Members to take immediate steps to ensure their safety and preparedness.

The storm is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rains, and significant coastal flooding, with a 10-15ft storm surge along our coastal areas throughout the day on Thursday. It is crucial to stay informed by monitoring weather updates and following instructions from local emergency management officials. Please adhere to evacuation orders if issued to ensure your safety.

WREC's personnel along with in-house contractors prepare for these events year-round and are fully ready to respond to the storm. We are coordinating with state and local government agencies, as well as first responders, to maintain power and ensure public safety. WREC has brought in additional support from out-of-state crews and mutual aid partners who are staged locally and ready to assist, if needed.

We urge all Members to stay at least 50 feet away from downed power lines and to report any hazardous situations to authorities and your local WREC office. The well-being of our community is our top priority, and we want to provide you with essential information to help you stay safe.

We understand the importance of timely and accurate information. We are providing regular updates through our social media platforms and [wrec.net](http://wrec.net). Please remember, the most effective and efficient way for Members to report an outage is on the SmartHub app. Please stay safe and rest assured WREC is ready to respond.

**About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC):** Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over 260,000 homes and businesses in Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties since 1947. WREC is dedicated to providing reliable and affordable electric services to its members while actively contributing to the communities it serves.