

## Situation

- On September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helene, a Category 2 storm when hitting South Georgia, caused 37 deaths and over \$6.4 billion in damage in the state of Georgia. With the high winds causing so much damage and extensive downed trees, the majority of Region M HCC partners were without electricity, phone service, cell phone service, and internet for an average of 18 days with some areas without for over 30 days.



## Intervention

- Region M Healthcare Coalition, in coordination with the Jacksonville National Weather Service, has held Severe Weather Tabletop Exercises for multiple years, making this a top priority by systematically identifying and addressing gaps in supplies, equipment, and training.

## Impact

- "Coffee Regional Medical Center was without power and internet following Hurricane Helene. A quick call to Region M's HCF resulted in the CRMC being able to borrow a Plum case for communications until power, internet and phones were restored. We very much appreciate the partnership we have with Region M HCC, and their existence is vital to small rural hospitals in South Georgia." - Andy Smith, EMT-P, Director of EMS, Coffee Regional Medical Center, Douglas, GA.
- "Without communication devices provided by Region M HCC, Clinch County had no other way to communicate with the State Operation Center or citizens of Clinch County during Hurricane Helene." - Andrew Nelson, EMA Director, Clinch County, Homerville, GA.
- Region M HCF deployed multiple Southern Linc Radios during Hurricane Helene, due to cellular towers being down, and this was the only way the majority of our region could communicate.

- “Region M HCF provided portable AC units to multiple skilled nursing facilities during Hurricane Helene to aid and support a cool environment that is vital to the health of the elderly and medically fragile who would be dramatically affected by uncontrolled warming temperatures inside of a care facility.” Richard Capps, II, LPN/IP/Emergency Preparedness, Bayview Nursing and Rehabilitation Community, Nahunta, GA.

