

Notes from Statewide Multifamily Housing Industry on Hurricane Helene Relief
Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Fire Watch and Water Updates: Bryan Holladay has been in communication with Buncombe County Fire Department (Different from the Asheville Fire Department).

- **Water Update:**
 - Water is starting to come back online, particularly in northern Asheville.
 - Water is currently non-drinkable.
 - Inconsistent service: Areas with water today may lose it tomorrow.
 - City Leadership Timeline: Expected full water restoration by October 30th (not public and subject to change).
- **Water for Firefighting:**
 - If there is a fire, the fire department will arrive with pump trucks, but with only the water they can carry in their tanks. Fires may be contained, but there will probably not be enough water to completely extinguish.
- **Fire Watches:**
 - Required every 30 minutes (24/7) for properties with sprinkler systems that are not working. If there is an older property that has power but does not contain a sprinkler system, fire watches are not required.
 - Buncombe County mandates fire watches for schools and courthouses.
 - **Fire Watch Options:**
 - Use two trucks filled with water to connect to the system (expensive).
 - Engage residents to assist with fire watches (with documentation).
 - **Documentation:** All fire watch actions must be documented, filed, and stored.
 - **Insurance Notification:** Notify your insurance company and lenders if your property is not fully serviced by the fire department.
 - More information on fire protocol is available on the [AAWNC website](#).
- **Staffing for Fire Watch:**
 - Staffing firms like The Liberty Group, BGSF, and Full House Marketing have experience getting the training and hiring for fire watch needs.
 - These firms offered the idea of training and paying residents who are currently out of work to assist with fire watches.
 - **Potential Conflicts:** Fire marshals and insurance companies might have different expectations, so check for specific requirements for your property.

Eviction Moratorium Concerns: Housing Advocacy Groups may soon request an eviction moratorium. No formal request has been made but it is expected this week.

- **AANC is prepared** to discuss why an eviction moratorium is not a suitable solution and has worked with the Realtors Association to develop talking points.
- **AANC Focus:** Advocating for short- and long-term rental assistance.

Additional Updates:

- **Heroic Stories Collection:** Jon and the PR committee are exploring how to best gather stories of heroic efforts at the property level.
- **Local Affiliates:** WAA, PTAA, and TAA are organizing donation drives. GCAA has started a Disaster Relief Fund.