



Thank You

On behalf of the Clayton Coleman Family, we would like to thank everyone for your acts of kindness during Clayton’s passing.

Words cannot express our appreciation for the cards, flowers, food, monetary donations, visits, words of comfort, and, most importantly, prayers.

Please continue to uplift our family in prayer as we travel down life’s journey.

Once again, thank you for your expressions of sympathy.

Thank you, the Clayton Coleman Family



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 5:30PM

COSTUME CONTEST AT 5:30PM FOLLOWED BY DINNER & EVENTS

This is a free community event!



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Saturday 8:30-1 Sunday

Charge Into Safety: Battery Tips For Fire Prevention Week

Lithium-ion do’s and don’ts so chargers - and couches - stay cool

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is using 2025 Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5–11) to remind everyone that lithium-ion batteries are great at powering gadgets - but terrible roommates when we treat them badly. This year’s NFPA theme says it plainly: “Charge into fire safety: Lithium-ion batteries in your home.”

Why the nudge now? Many everyday items use lithium-ion power - phones, tablets, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, toys, and power or lawn tools. These batteries warm up while charging (normal), but problems start when they overheat. Good habits keep the heat where it belongs: in your coffee, not your couch.

- Buy only listed products - look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the box and the device. (If it screams “bargain,” but whispers “no safety label,” keep scrolling.)
- Use quality charging gear - the cable that came with your device, or the manufacturer’s approved replacement. Mystery-drawer chargers are like blind dates for electricity.
- Charge on a hard surface - table or countertop. Pillows and sofas are for naps, not for turning your phone into a space heater.
- Don’t overcharge - your device doesn’t need an all-night “buffet.” Unplug when it’s full.
- Retire worn-out batteries - they don’t last forever, and replacing them beats replacing the living room.
- Never toss lithium-ion batteries in the trash or curbside recycling - surprise fires are the worst kind.
- Recycle the right way - find a drop-off near you at call2recycle.org.

“We all have a financial incentive to avoid fires - and a duty to protect our families,” Causey said. “Let’s build smart charging habits and keep our homes safe.”

Learn more at ncdoi.gov or call the NCDOT Consumer Services Division at 1-855-408-1212.

Why Do Leaves Change Color In Fall?

Sunlight, chemistry, and clever trees getting ready for winter

Fall’s fiery colors are one of nature’s best magic tricks - and here’s the reveal: those reds, oranges, and yellows were hiding under green capes all summer long. The headliner isn’t cold weather; it’s daylight. As days get shorter after the autumnal equinox, trees get a memo from the sun that says, “Clock out and prep for winter.”

With less daylight, deciduous trees downshift from “grow mode” to “save-your-energy mode.” Inside each leaf, mighty chlorophyll - the green pigment that powers photosynthesis - stops getting restocked. As the green fades, the pigments it was masking (the golds and oranges of carotenoids, and sometimes the reds from anthocyanins) step into the spotlight like a well-timed encore.

Meanwhile, a tiny corky barrier called the abscission zone forms where the leaf stalk meets the twig. Think of it as the tree’s perforated “tear here” line. It gradually seals off water and nutrient pipes, sometimes trapping sugars in the leaf - fuel that can help create those vivid reds. When a good breeze shows up, the leaf gets its graceful exit, stage lawn.

Not every tree goes Broadway-bright. Some species really ham it up - maple, aspen, birch, oak, and gum are known for standing ovations - while others prefer a tasteful, muted wardrobe change. Weather can tweak the show, too: sunny days and crisp (but not freezing) nights often sharpen the reds; drought or early hard frost can cut the performance short.

So when you’re leaf-peeping this season, remember: it’s not just sweater weather, it’s smart-tree weather. The colors are a clever chemistry show - nature’s way of closing the books for winter - followed, of course, by the homeowner’s epilogue: the Great Rake-ening.



Marking One Year Since Hurricane Helene, N.C. Commerce Highlights Recovery Milestones in Western North Carolina

One year after Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc on Western North Carolina, the state is tallying up milestones in the long road to recovery. In just 12 months, the Department of Commerce has put a new division to work overseeing \$1.4 billion in federal recovery funds, processed more than 3,400 homeowner applications for repair assistance, paid out \$96 million in disaster-related unemployment benefits, and even encouraged tourists to come back to the mountains. Because nothing says resilience quite like sipping craft beer with a view of freshly repaired hiking trails.

“As we reach the one-year milestone of Hurricane Helene, western North Carolina has made encouraging progress, but my goodness, the work is far from over,” Governor Josh Stein said. “We must continue to get people back into their homes, support small businesses, and repair critical infrastructure so communities can rebuild and thrive.”

The state’s Renew NC Single-Family Housing Program has been a centerpiece of recovery, with more than 3,400 families applying for home repairs or replacements. North Carolina recently became the fastest state in over a decade to complete HUD-funded hurricane home repairs, with the first home finished in late August. The program also stands out for its emphasis on community-centered outreach - think local staff, canvassing, intake centers, and even mail-in applications for those who prefer pen over pixels. A real-time dashboard helps track progress by county, proving that transparency isn’t just for windows.

Workforce recovery has also been critical. The Helene Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grant Program has provided training and temporary jobs for more than 260 people. Meanwhile, NCWorks Career Centers and its mobile unit have hosted nearly 250 hiring events, connecting thousands with new opportunities. More than 36,000 disaster-related unemployment claims have been processed, distributing over \$96 million in benefits—more money than was delivered following previous hurricanes.

For small businesses, the state’s SmBIZ program is helping local governments rebuild infrastructure with grants of up to \$1 million. These projects range from repairing roads and utilities to making sure mom-and-pop shops can reopen their doors.

“We’re committed to standing with Western North Carolina throughout this recovery, and these programs represent the collaborative effort of state and local partners,” said Commerce Secretary Lee Lilley. “Our work is making a difference in the lives of families and businesses across Western North Carolina, and we won’t quit until every community has the resources it needs to fully recover and thrive.”

Tourism is also bouncing back through the VisitNC “Rediscover the Unforgettable” campaign, promoting Western North Carolina’s mountains, arts, breweries, wineries, and outdoor recreation. The message is clear: yes, the region took a hit, but the views are still breathtaking, the beer is still cold, and the music still plays on.

While these milestones reflect significant progress, recovery is far from over. State officials continue to visit communities, listen to residents, and provide information about available programs. The promise remains steady: North Carolina will keep at it until Western North Carolina not only recovers but thrives.

For more information about recovery programs, including the Renew NC Single-Family Housing Program, visit commerce.nc.gov/recovery.

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