

Irene Fully Ashore in eastern North Carolina

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Hurricane Irene is fully ashore in eastern North Carolina as of lunchtime Saturday, bringing with it widespread power outages and flooding. Irene made landfall about 7:30 a.m. Saturday near Cape Lookout, North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center. CNN reports that it brought high winds, heavy rain and a strong storm surge that cut off thousands of residents in Beaufort and in Carteret and Pamlico counties, quoting the state Emergency Management Agency. The news agency also said that the storm was blamed for a death Saturday morning, when a tree limb fell on a man feeding livestock, quoting an emergency official in Nash County. The storm remained a Category 1 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 90 miles from the center, according to the National Weather Service. Emergency crews from Watauga Rescue and Samaritan's Purse are following the storm, ready to begin aid missions to areas hit hard by the storm.