

Prepare Before a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Threatens

Every resident should make a plan and know what you will do if a hurricane threatens Lee County. Knowing what your risks are will help you decide whether you can shelter in place or evacuate the area. If you must evacuate, going to visit family or friends, or going to a hotel should be your first options. If you cannot leave the area and have no safe place to go, our shelter will provide you safety during the storm.

Services Provided

Lee County's Special Needs Program provides transportation and shelter services to residents during a tropical storm or hurricane weather event. To adequately prepare for the number of people requiring these services, pre-registration is required.

Transportation

If you do not have a vehicle or a ride to get to the shelter, you can register for transportation to a Public Shelter, Special Care Shelter, or Hospital Shelter.

If you do not pre-register and discover you do not have a ride, you can go to a bus stop marked for Hurricane

Evacuation or to the LeeTran transfer stations to take a bus to the shelter.

Shelters

If your home does not meet current building code standards or if you are in a low lying area or are subject to storm surge flooding, sheltering in place is not an option for you. If you do not have any other place that you can go away from the threatening weather, you can be safe from the storm in one of our shelters.

Emergency Public Shelters

Lee County has 32 designated Public Shelters. Public Shelters will accept anyone who is self-sufficient and needs no outside professional assistance in activities of daily living. You do not have to pre-register to go to a Public Shelter.

Every shelter will **NOT** open for every storm. Shelters will be opened based upon the strength and direction of the storm. You should monitor the television and radio stations to find out which shelters are open. We will also have the names of open shelters on our website (www.LeeEOC.com).

Special Care Shelters

For people who require basic medical assistance with daily living for reasons

such as oxygen dependence, special medical equipment, etc., we will open a Special Care Shelter. You must pre-register and be assigned to the Special Care Shelter.

Please note: When Lee County enters the 5-day forecast cone, we stop taking registration forms until the weather event ends.

Oxygen will be provided and concentrators are not necessary. A companion/caregiver must accompany all registrants, as the volunteer medical staff will be very limited and unfamiliar with your medical condition and treatment. If you do not have a companion/caregiver, please call our office to discuss other options (239) 533-3640.

Remember, Special Care Shelters do not allow smoking, guns, alcohol, or pets.

Hospital Shelters

For those people who are medically too frail or have limitations that preclude them from sheltering outside a hospital environment, there is limited hospital sheltering. Please note that this is for sheltering purposes only, and does not include any medical care.

Your doctor will let you know if you are a candidate for hospital sheltering. You will need a letter/script from your doctor noting the reasons for this type of shelter. Once approved, you will receive information about what to bring with you to the hospital. The letter/script is good for one year only, so you must reapply every year.

Service Animals

You may bring your service animal to any shelter facility. Pets are NOT allowed at these facilities.

Pet-Friendly Shelter

Lee County has one pet-friendly shelter at South Fort Myers High School. You and your pet will shelter at the same facility. Your pet must be in a carrier when off the leash. You must bring all food, water, clean up supplies, meds and shot records for your pet. To get more information on the pet-friendly shelter, you can call Lee County Animal Services at (239)533-7387.

If you have questions or want additional information on hurricane preparation, call Emergency Management at (239) 533-3640 or (239) 533-3622.

Helpful Links

You can get additional information on the topics below at the listed websites.

Special Needs Application

www.LeeEOC.com/shelterevacuation/application.aspx

Family Hurricane Plan

www.LeeEOC.com/preparedness/familyhurricaneplan.aspx

Preparedness Videos in ASL

www.floridadisaster.org/Disability/video/index.htm

All Hazards Guide

<http://www.leeec.com/preparedness/allhazardsguides.aspx>

Pet-Friendly Shelter information

http://www.leelostpets.com/hurricane_guidelines.htm



<http://www.LeeEOC.com/>

revised 2009

Hurricane Planning

For People with Special Needs



Hurricane Shelter & Transportation Guidelines & Registration

You must submit a new application each year to remain on the Special Needs registry.

Registration officially turns **OFF** when Lee County falls into the 5-day forecast cone.

Prepared in cooperation with:

**Lee County
Health Department**

**Lee County Public Safety
Emergency Management Program**