

To apply for a ***Special Needs Shelter***, go to the following link:

<https://www.leeoc.com/shelterevacuation/Pages/SpecialNeeds.aspx>

Lee Tran Routes: <https://www.leeoc.com/shelterevacuation/Pages/Transportation.aspx>

Hurricane Supply / Disaster Kit

Every home should have a 72-Hour Disaster Survival kit. Ensure a minimum three-day (72 hours) supply for each person. Although hurricanes are our focus, other events could require evacuation. Brush fires, hazardous material spills, floods and tornados all have the potential to disrupt our daily activities. Here is a minimum suggested list of survival kit supplies.

- Develop a family disaster / emergency plan. (get a copy today)
- Stay alert to storm advisories.
- Purchase a NOAA, battery operated weather radio.
- Get cash.
- Fill your car with gasoline and extra in approved gas containers for generators.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector at electrical plug level near where the family will be sleeping.
- Have a pet plan and purchase enough food.
- Get batteries for flashlights – never use candles or open flames as a light source.
- Inform local and out-of-state family members and friends of your plans.
- Work with your neighbors that might have difficulty completing their emergency preparations.
- After the storm, be alert to downed power lines, and stay out of areas that were badly damaged.

Your survival kit (enough for 3-days for each person):

- ❑ Canned or other non-perishable food
- ❑ Manual can-opener
- ❑ Other cooking utensils
- ❑ Drinking water - 1 gallon per person per day, (use sterile containers) other juices and soft drinks
- ❑ Snack foods, special food for the elderly on special diets
- ❑ Paper plates, plastic utensils
- ❑ Paper towels or napkins
- ❑ Baby needs; diapers, formula, etc.
- ❑ Personal medications and prescriptions
- ❑ Personal needs: such as: glasses, dentures, hearing aids, etc.
- ❑ First aid kit
- ❑ Battery operated television or radio and flashlight
- ❑ Extra batteries
- ❑ Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags or lawn chairs
- ❑ Sanitary and hygiene supplies
- ❑ Cards, books, small games
- ❑ Road maps – with a plan of travel specified that is opposite of the storm’s path (North is not always the right way.)
- ❑ Wet and cold weather clothing, sturdy shoes
- ❑ Extra set of home and car keys
- ❑ A small set of basic tools
- ❑ Pet care items: identification/immunization records, food/water, carrier/cage, medications, muzzle, and a leash

Gather important documents in one place, and have them ready to take with you. Any documents you may need after a storm or flood should be gathered now and kept in a protected place.

- **Birth certificates**
- Insurance policies
- Health records
- Mortgages, deeds
- Passport
- Titles
- Financial documents
- Banking/account information, checks
- Credit cards
- Social Security information, card, documents

Role of the Fire Department during a storm

- To support the Emergency Operations Center by establishing communication links, coordinate operations, evaluate needs and request resources
- Station 74 would become the Beach Command Division EOC – Emergency Operations Center
- Additional personnel would be called in for extra manning power
- Operations will cease at 45 mph – following the County’s policy - we can’t transport and EMS stops
- Calls will be logged and once the winds reduce to under 45 mph when the storm has passed, we will run the calls on the log according to priority in this order; Rescue/Medical, Hazard Control (including fire control), and property conservation.
- Since most residents in need of rescue post storm won’t be able to call 9-1-1, the Division Officers will assign units to systematically check each subdivision in their zone beginning with areas closest to the river and Estero Bay.
- The fire departments are not shelters and you should follow EOC recommendations for where to go.

Pets

In a hurricane pets are subject to the same hazards as people and have many of the same needs. Remember, you cannot bring your pets to the shelter and you may be away from home for a number of days. The best plan is to identify a safe location to evacuate to that allows pets, such as a friend’s home or a pet friendly hotel. You can also check the internet for sites such as www.pets-allowed-hotels.com/ to find a hotel outside the evacuation area.

Your pets will need a Hurricane Disaster Kit, too. Include water, non-perishable food, and medications to keep your pets healthy, clean and free of parasites. Keep a sturdy cage or carrier to comfortably hold your pet and/or a collar and leash. Make sure all vaccinations are up-to-date and keep a copy of the records with you, as well as a few good photos in case you get separated. Be sure identification tags are on the collars. Talk to your veterinarian about microchip identification for your pets.

Remember: Never leave your pets outside during a storm.

- Never leave a cat with a dog, even if the two are normally friends.
- Confine and keep small pets (birds, hamsters, etc.) away from cats and dogs.
- Dangerous animals should be secured in special crates or cages.
- Any unsecured animals posing a danger will be at risk of being destroyed.

All animal facilities in the path of a hurricane are subject to some degree of damage or flooding. Keep in mind, boarding kennels and animal hospitals may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster.

Local animal services phone number: Lee County - (239) 432-2083

Humane Society of Lee County phone number: (239) 332-0364

People with Special Needs

Special Care Shelters are available for people who have special medical needs that cannot be accommodated in an Emergency Public Shelter. You must pre-register to be considered for the Special Care Shelter. These applications are reviewed by a representative from the Department of Health to determine whether they meet the requirements. If you are assigned to a Special Care Shelter, a caregiver **must** accompany you during your stay to take care of you and your personal needs.

If your physician decides that you need to be cared for in a hospital, he/she needs to arrange pre-admittance and must give you a script stating you are to be taken to the hospital. This script must be dated for the current year and must accompany you to the hospital. You are also required to bring a caregiver with you to take care of you and your needs while at the hospital. There will be no accommodations for the caregiver, so they are responsible for bringing their own cot/sleeping bag, blankets, towels, personal hygiene items, snacks, etc.

Emergency Public Shelters

The active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 have shown us that it is absolutely necessary to have an evacuation plan prepared long before hurricane season arrives. It is important to have several options in your plan, just in case your first choice does not work out. If your first two or three options fall through and you have no other safe place to go, you should go to a Lee County Emergency Public Shelter. The shelter is a safe place to evacuate to before a storm; however, it offers only the basic life sustaining necessities, such as shelter from the weather, water, food and Port-O-Lets. Also make sure the shelter you plan to go to is open. All thirty-two listed shelters will not open for every storm.

Since we cannot predict how damaging the effects of each storm will be, we also cannot predict how long you may have to remain housed in the shelter. That is why we recommend evacuating outside the storm/evacuation areas, if at all possible. You must bring your own personal hygiene items, sleeping bags/cots, blankets, towels, snacks, drinks and other comfort items to the shelter. You can print a copy of our Disaster Survival Kit for a more complete listing of items to make your stay at the shelter more comfortable. It is likely the shelter will not have electricity for the majority of time you are there.

Anyone that lived here during the 2004-2005 hurricane season knows how stressful it is before, during and after the storm. That is compounded when you are living in a shelter with many other people that are experiencing the same feelings. Being considerate of others and having a positive attitude will be helpful to everyone. Volunteer to help whenever possible. Listen for official information and do not participate in gossip or rumors, which can be very disruptive.

Weapons, smoking and alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all shelters.

Transportation

There are several modes of shelter transportation available during an evacuation. The LeeTran buses will pickup people at the Hurricane Evacuation bus stops throughout the County and drop off at the Emergency Public Shelters free of charge. If you need a ride to the Emergency Public Shelter but cannot get to the bus stop, you can request transportation by completing the Special Needs Application and requesting transportation to the Emergency Public Shelter.

If you are a person with Special Needs, you can request transportation to the Special Care Shelter when you complete the application. Your request will be evaluated and you will be assigned appropriate transportation based upon the information on your application. You will be notified that your transportation will arrive during a block of time. You must be ready to leave as soon as your transportation arrives, so make sure all your shelter items are ready. You are responsible for carrying all your own belongings, so pack carefully and do not bring more items than you can manage.

Preparing Your Home for the Storm

The best time to plan to protect a building is during design and construction. Roof pitch, structural fasteners, window size and placement all have an effect on potential storm damage. Most of us, though, are not dealing with construction plans; we are protecting existing buildings. Here are a few things to consider. A “handy” homeowner can do many of these, but they must be done **before** a storm threatens. Contact a building supply company, qualified contractor or your Emergency Management office for more information.

*The garage door is generally the largest opening in the home and is often overlooked when installing protection. Reputable garage door companies can install bracing usually for less than half the cost of a new garage door.

*Brace roof trusses and gable ends. Proper bracing of roof trusses/rafters allows the roof sheathing and trusses to work as a system to resist collapse. Hip-type roofs are less vulnerable to wind than gable end roofs.

*Structures built during the last twenty years are required to have straps or clips to attach the trusses/rafters to the joists and top part of the roof. Adding straps where none exist or verifying that the existing straps/clips are properly installed can make a huge difference when a hurricane strikes.

*Windows are extremely vulnerable to wind and flying debris. **Tape does not protect windows.** Never tape windows covered with solar film. Window protection is critical to protecting your family and home. Protection systems, ranging from impact rated glass to plywood panels, are available to fit any budget. If you use plywood, a minimum thickness of 5/8 inch is recommended. Reinforce large panels and mark each board for a specific location. Have fasteners on hand! Newer homes may come equipped with storm panels. Practice installing them to be sure you understand the process and to be sure everything fits. If you have accordion or roll down shutters, inspect them and make needed repairs before hurricane season starts.

*Keep your home in good condition. Replace rotted wood, seal cracks in concrete block and other openings caused by wear. If replacing your roof, replace any deteriorated sheathing and re-nail all sheathing to comply with current codes. This is relatively inexpensive and will improve the structural stability of older roof systems.

*Become familiar with removable equipment such as window air conditioners and roof turbines, so they may be removed quickly and the openings secured. Know how to turn off water, natural or bottled gas, and electricity at the main panel.

*Cut back dead vegetation and remove dead coconuts. Locate a safe place to store gas grills and propane or LP gas tanks and tie them down. Any object outside should be considered a storm threat; move it inside, tie it down or find another way to secure it.

*Stock other supplies such as masking tape, duct tape, bleach, rope, caulk, canned fuel and plastic sheeting for protection against rain and immediate repairs.