

2020 Hurricane Preparedness Information

This information has been gathered from various sources to assist you in your efforts to prepare for the 2020 hurricane season. This information was compiled on June 21, 2020, and some elements may have changed due to changes in circumstances/conditions. For the most up-to-date information on evacuation routes and shelters, you are advised to consult local TV/radio/web-based sources.

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Hurricanes

Hurricane Awareness

All residents, whether they are owners or guests, need to be aware of the hurricane season and what to do in the case of a hurricane.

Hurricane season is from June 1 through November 30. A hurricane is an intense low-pressure system, which rotates counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere and generates winds in excess of 74 mph. There are three prominent types of tropical disturbance as outlined below:

- Tropical depression: A disturbance with a clearly defined low-pressure area; highest wind speed is 38 mph.
- Tropical storm: A distinct low-pressure area defined by counterclockwise rotating circulation; winds of 39 - 73 mph.
- Hurricane: Once a tropical storm speed reaches 74 mph greater, it is classified as a hurricane.

Categories of Hurricanes

- Category 1: 74-95 mph winds
- Category 2: 96-110 mph winds
- Category 3: 111-130 mph winds
- Category 4: 131-155 mph winds
- Category 5: over 155 mph winds

Warnings and Advisories

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** An alert for a specific area that a tropical storm *may* pose a threat within the next 48 hours.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** An alert that tropical storm conditions, including sustained winds of 39-73 mph, are expected in specific areas within 36 hours or less.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are *possible* within the specified area. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds in an area.
- **Hurricane Warning:** An alert that hurricane conditions are expected in a specific area. Hurricane warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. All precautions should be completed immediately.
- **Evacuation Order:** Issued by local emergency operations management, this order instructs residents in various predetermined evacuation levels to vacate the area.

Choice of Action before the Storm

There are three primary choices of action when a hurricane threatens:

- Stay in your home (a mandatory evacuation may be ordered).
- Leave the area.
- Go to a public shelter (A list of shelters is included at the end of this document, but you should always be alert to possible changes by listening to local media).

You should decide which of the above courses of action you will take BEFORE a hurricane threatens and inform family members.

The decision by local officials to order an evacuation is a touchy situation because meteorologists cannot accurately predict where hurricane will strike until about 12 hours before landfall. Evacuation of West Central Florida coastal residents to safer inland areas could take more than 30 hours in a very serious storm situation.

Post-storm conditions should also be considered when deciding what course of action to take. Utilities will likely be interrupted for days after hurricane strike. More than likely, there will be no telephones, electricity, water or sewer services. Other local services, such as fire and emergency medical services, will be overwhelmed and hampered by access problems. Elevators may not be operational.

Staying in Your Home

IF A MANDATORY EVACUATION IS NOT ORDERED

- Stay indoors until “all clear” signal is issued by local officials.
- Stay on the side of your home **AWAY** from the wind. As the wind direction changes, move accordingly. The utility room or bathrooms may be the safest rooms during the storm.
- Stay away from the windows and glass doors.
- Don’t go outside during the calm that accompanies the “eye” as it passes.
- Listen to the radio for information from official government sources.
- Use the telephone ONLY for emergencies.
- Conserve battery power.

ITEMS TO HAVE ON HAND

- Flashlights with extra batteries and bulbs.
- A battery-operated weather radio.
- Bottled beverages.
- Water.
- Canned food.
- A manual can opener.
- First-aid supplies.
- Medication(s).

PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE STORM

- Clean the bathtub with bleach, rinse and fill it with water for drinking.
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings.
- Deploy storm shutters and install extra supports/braces as needed.
- Make sure your automobile has a full tank of gasoline.
- Store all patio furniture, plants and outdoor items inside the unit. When caught in the wind, loose items can become lethal projectiles.

Evacuation Checklist

It is recommended for families to have a minimum of five days' worth of supplies and hurricane survival kit, as well as other items for use at a shelter and/or upon return to home. These are some recommended steps:

Step 1: Ensure your vehicle has a full tank of gasoline. Check tire pressure and inspect fluid levels.

Step 2: Obtain cash rolls of quarters and small bills for use in vending machines. Remember that most vendors will not accept checks or credit cards after hurricane.

Step 3: Pack the following:

- Items That Require No Cooking.
- Items that are ready to eat.
- Include a can opener and plastic or disposable utensils.
- Include toiletries and enough personal hygiene supplies for two weeks.
- Medications.

Step 4: Pack important documents and papers:

- Birth/marriage certificates.
- Passports/visas.
- Wills and Power of Attorney.
- Computer discs with valuable information and/or system discs.
- Videotape of household goods and of the interior/exterior of the house.
- Pet vaccination documentation.
- Personal phone/address book.

Step 5: Pack Clothing, Bedding, and Bathing Supplies.

- Pants, Shirts, Underwear, Socks, etc.
- Pillows, Sheets, and Blankets.
- Towels and Face Cloths.

Step 6: Prepare your home:

- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest settings 24 hours **BEFORE** leaving.
- Remove perishable items and take them with you.
- Shut off the main breaker in your electrical panel.
- Shut off your water supply.
- Store all patio furniture, plants and outdoor items inside.
- Lock your doors and leave a spare key with someone you trust.

STEP 7: Plan for your pets:

- Prepare for the possibility that you will have to take your pets with you. Include things such as Non-perishable food, water, medications, cage/carrier, collar/leash, vaccination records.

Lee and Collier County Emergency Shelters & Governmental Emergency Contacts

Lee County; Know your evacuation zone (Evacuation routes, Shelters, & Hospitals):

<http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone>

Collier County; Know your evacuation zone (Evacuation routes, Shelters, & Hospitals):

<https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-a-e/emergency-management/why-evacuate/-fsiteid-1>

Lee County Disaster Kits & Plans: <http://leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement>

Collier County Disaster Kits & Plans: <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-a-e/emergency-management/personal-disaster-plan-etc>

Lee County Website: <http://www.leegov.com/>

Phone: 239-533-2111

Lee County All Hazards Guide: <http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg>

Collier County Website: <https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/your-government/divisions-a-e/emergency-management/2015-collier-all-hazards-guide>

FEMA ready.gov information sheet: <https://www.ready.gov/>

Lee County Code Red Alert information: <https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/leealert/alertsignup>

Collier County Code Red Alert information: <https://www.naplesgov.com/citymanager/page/code-red>

Lee County Solid Waste <http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste> 239-533-8000

After the Storm

- Listen to the public radio, television, or NOAA weather radio stations.
- Keep abreast of road conditions through the media; wait until an area is declared “safe” before entering.
- Do NOT attempt to drive across flowing water; as little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle; water 2 feet deep will carry away most cars. If you see water flowing across a roadway, **TURN AROUND AND GO THE OTHER WAY**. Many people have been killed or injured driving through flooded roadways or around barricades; roads are closed for your protection.
- Stay away from moving water.
- Do not allow children, especially under the age of 13, to play in flooded areas; they often drown or injured in areas appearing safe.
- If someone needs to be rescued, call professionals with the appropriate equipment to help.
- Many people have been killed or injured trying to rescue others in flooded areas.
- Stay away from standing water. It may be electrically charged due to downed power lines or broken underground cables.
- Have professionals check your water, and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Use a flashlight for emergency lighting; never use candles or other open flames indoors.
- Use tap water for drinking and cooking **ONLY** when local officials have declared it to be safe.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

Debris

- Keep storm debris separate from your regular household garbage and recycling.
- Storm debris should be sorted into separate piles for garbage, yard waste, appliances, furniture & other bulky waste, appliances and construction debris.
- When collection services resume, place garbage curbside away from the storm related debris on your regular collection service day.

2015-2016 EVACUATION ZONES, ROUTES & EMERGENCY PUBLIC SHELTERS

EMERGENCY PUBLIC SHELTERS

Alva/East Fort Myers

- 2. Alva Elem/Middle School – 17500 Church St
- 23. Riverdale High School – 2600 Buckingham Rd

Bonita Springs

- 3. Bonita Springs YMCA – 27200 Kent Rd


Cape Coral

- 5. Diplomat Elementary School – 1115 NE 16th Terrace
- 6. Diplomat Middle School – 1039 NE 16th Terrace
- 13. Island Coast High School – 2125 DeNavarra Pkwy
- 19. Mariner Middle School – 425 Chiquita Blvd

Estero

- 9. Estero Recreation Center – 9200 Corkscrew Palm Blvd
- 10. Estero High School – 21900 River Ranch Rd
- 11. Germain Arena – 11000 Everblades Pkwy

Fort Myers

- 4. Colonial Elementary School – 3800 Schoolhouse Rd
- 15. James Stephens International Academy – 1333 Marsh Ave
- 24. Royal Palm Exceptional Center – 3050 Indian St
- 26. South Fort Myers High School – 14020 Plantation Blvd
-  Pet Friendly Shelter

Lehigh Acres

- 8. East Lee County High School – 715 Thomas-Sherwin Ave
- 12. Harns Marsh Elementary School – 1800 Unice Ave N
- 33. Harns Marsh Middle School – 1820 Unice Ave N
- 16. Lehigh Senior High School – 801 Gunnery Rd
- 20. Mirror Lakes Elementary School – 525 Charwood Ave
- 31. Varsity Lakes Middle School – 901 Gunnery Rd
- 32. Veterans Park Recreation Center – 49 Homestead Rd

North Fort Myers

- 14. J. C. Colin English Elementary School – 120 Pine Island Rd
- 17. Littleton Elementary School – 700 Hutto Rd
- 21. N. Fort Myers Academy of the Arts – 1856 Arts Way
- 34. North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 N. Recreation Park Way

San Carlos

- 1. Alico Arena – 12181 FGCU Lake Pkwy
- 28. Three Oaks Elementary School – 19600 Cypress View Dr
- 29. Three Oaks Middle School – 18500 Three Oaks Pkwy

Tice

- 22. Oak Hammock Middle School – 5321 Tice St

****Be Advised:** We will **NOT** open all of these shelters during any single event. The opening of shelters is dependent upon the nature of each specific event.

 Primary Evacuation Route

Source: Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and Lee County Emergency Management

