



## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 7, 2017

Volusia County Media Line: 386-226-7890

### **Hurricane Irma Update 2**

Volusia County emergency officials continue to monitor dangerous Hurricane Irma. According to the National Weather Service Melbourne, based on the latest track, Volusia County will begin to experience tropical storm force winds about midnight Saturday. Officials advise Volusia County could experience tropical storm force winds for 18 hours, ending sometime Monday afternoon. Officials anticipate Category 3 winds to last about six hours in Volusia County on Sunday. Rainfall predictions are for 8-10 inches, and possibly an additional 1-2 inches in low-lying areas. These conditions are subject to change as the storm continues to approach.

At today's Volusia County Council meeting, a local state of emergency for the county was declared. Other storm preparations approved by the Volusia County Council include:

- Vehicle access to the beach will end at 5 p.m. Thursday. Beach and Coastal officials are removing items from the beach, and the public is encouraged to not visit the beach until it is safe after the storm.
- Volusia County Government offices will be closed Friday and Monday. This also includes facilities, such as libraries, which will also be closed Saturday and Sunday.
- All county parks are closed as of 5 p.m. Thursday.

### **Emergency Operations Center**

Volusia County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is at Level 2 (partially activated) in preparation of Hurricane Irma. Friday, the EOC will be at full activation (Level 1) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, the EOC will fully activate (Level 1) at 8 a.m. and remain activated through the duration of the storm.

### **Citizen's Information Center**

Volusia County's Citizen's Information Center (CIC) is available for persons with questions about how to prepare for Hurricane Irma. The CIC will be open until 6 p.m. today, and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday. Beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, the CIC will operate 24/7 until further notice.

### **Evacuations and general public shelters**

Based on the latest storm track, residents on the beachside, in low-lying areas, and in RVs, mobile or manufactured homes are asked at this time to evacuate voluntarily. If you are uncomfortable in your home, you also are encouraged to evacuate.

Public shelters will begin opening Saturday morning in Volusia County. If possible, evacuees should stay with family and friends prior to seeking public shelter. Residents should not go to public shelters before they open.

Residents are asked to review a list of items to bring with them to the shelters that is posted at [www.volusia.org/emergency](http://www.volusia.org/emergency).

[www.volusia.org](http://www.volusia.org)

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## **Special Needs Shelters**

Residents who are physically, mentally or sensory disabled and those who need supplemental oxygen are asked to seek shelter at one of the special needs shelters that will be opening Saturday.

- Residents who have signed up for a special needs shelter and have not heard back are asked to go to the special needs shelter, where they will be triaged and admitted accordingly.
- Residents who did not sign up with the special needs registry are asked to go to the special needs shelter, where they will be triaged and admitted accordingly.
- Evacuees should be accompanied by a caregiver if this type of assistance normally is needed.

Special needs shelters cannot accommodate isolation patients and people who need 24-hour dedicated care, a hospital bed, ventilator or other complex care. These individuals should discuss other shelter arrangements with their health care provider or home health provider.

Special needs shelter evacuees should contact Volusia County Animal Services at 386-248-1790 to discuss assistance for sheltering pets.

**Evacuees may need to stay at a shelter for several days during an emergency. Since space is limited, they should bring only:**

- Special dietary food, snacks and comfort food
- Bedding, pillow, blanket
- Extra clothing, jacket
- Medications and medical supplies
- Oxygen supplies (if necessary, arrange with your oxygen company to deliver to the designated special needs shelter)
- Toiletry items
- Flashlight and batteries
- Diapers and necessities for infants and elderly and disabled persons
- Time occupiers such as books, magazines, games and cards
- Important papers, credit cards, cash and identification

## **Shelters opening in Volusia County**

The following shelters will open at the times noted. Residents are asked to not arrive at a shelter before the opening time.

### **Opening at 10 a.m. Saturday**

- General Shelters
  - University High School, 1000 W. Rhode Island Ave., Orange City
  - Taylor Middle/High School, 100 E. Washington Ave., Pierson
  - Sweetwater Elementary School, 5800 Victoria Gardens Blvd., Port Orange
  - Cypress Creek Elementary School, 6100 S. Williamson Blvd., Port Orange
- Special Needs Shelters (these are pet friendly for those with special needs)
  - Palm Terrace Elementary School, 1825 Dunn Ave, Daytona Beach
  - Atlantic High School, 1250 Reed Canal Road, Port Orange
  - Creekside Middle School, 6801 Airport Road, Port Orange
  - Freedom Elementary School, 1395 S. Blue Lake Ave., DeLand
  - Heritage Middle School, 1001 Parnell Court, Deltona
- General Public Pet-Friendly Shelters
  - Hinson Middle School, 1860 N. Clyde Morris Blvd., Daytona Beach
  - Citrus Grove Elementary School, 729 Hazen Road, DeLand
  - Spirit Elementary School, 1500 Meadowlark Drive, Deltona
  - Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 E. State Road 44, DeLand

### **Opening at noon Saturday**

- General Shelters
  - Mainland High School, 1255 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach
  - River Springs Middle School, 900 West Ohio Ave., Orange City
  - Pride Elementary School, 1100 Learning Lane, Deltona
  - DeLand High School, 800 N. Hill Ave., DeLand
  -
- General Public Pet-Friendly Shelters
  - Pine Trail Elementary School, 300 Airport Road, Ormond Beach
  - Champion Elementary School, 921 Tournament Drive, Daytona Beach

### **Votran public transit**

Votran will continue to operate regular bus routes as long as storm conditions allow. All Votran vehicles will be removed from roads when winds are sustained at 35 mph. Once the hurricane has passed, service will resume as soon as possible. Beachside service will resume when bridges are reopened.

At the time that an evacuation order is issued, Votran is placed under the direct control of Volusia County Emergency Management and follows the directions of the established Emergency Management Plan.

When public shelters open in Volusia County, Votran will provide free transportation to public shelters. All Votran bus stops are evacuation assembly points during a declared emergency evacuation order. Fares are not charged during evacuations and returns. If special needs evacuees cannot reach a regular bus stop, they must call Votran to arrange transportation.

Evacuees may need to stay at a shelter for 24 to 72 hours during an emergency. Bus and shelter space is limited. Evacuees should take only essential items, such as food, bedding, clothing and medications. Carry-on items are limited to a pillow, blanket and one carry-on bag (not larger than 22" x 16" x 8"). Residents can also bring a folding chair (i.e. lounge chair to sit or sleep on).

Votran Gold passengers should be prepared to cancel non-essential trips.

### **Returning home from a shelter**

Every effort will be made to allow evacuees to return to their homes and businesses as quickly as possible. Re-entry to evacuated areas will be authorized based on public safety, security and the operational needs of search-and-rescue teams. The re-entry policy will be established as soon as possible and with as few restrictions as possible. The decision to establish general re-entry will be evaluated through continuous coordination among county and state agencies, municipal law enforcement agencies and adjacent counties and will be announced through the news media.

### **Telephone numbers for Votran**

Daytona Beach: 386-761-7700

West Volusia: 386-943-7033

New Smyrna Beach: 386-424-6800

### **Emergency Management App**

Volusia County has launched an Emergency Management app to help residents be more informed and ready for disasters – VolusiaCountyFLEM. The app is available for free to download for iPhone or Android users.

- The Volusia County Emergency Management app contains advanced features that strive to help keep the citizens of Volusia County prepared and informed about any emergency at hand.
- The home screen gets you as much information as possible through social media posts, push notifications, and news blogs. You also have access to submit damage reports, get contact information, and access our social media pages.
- The map feature contains information like a weather radar, emergency shelter information, evacuation zones, and evacuation routes for Volusia County.

- The emergency plan feature contains an area for you to keep up with your emergency checklist, your emergency contacts, preparedness information before an event, and information on what to do during and after an event along with the ability to share your location to a group of users that you select.
- The news feature shows a history of your push notifications received through the app as well as news posted through the app. You can also receive NWS Weather Alerts as push notifications through the app.

Residents can stay informed during severe weather and disasters by downloading the Emergency Management app or signing up to receive emergency telephone or email notifications from Volusia County Emergency Management. They also can “like” Volusia County Emergency Management on Facebook and follow @VCEmergencyInfo on Twitter.