

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County Emergency Operations Center monitoring storm conditions 24 hours a day
County opens two Safe Havens for residents with housing not secure due to previous storm damage

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 28, 2023 – The Lee County Emergency Operations Center is now operating 24-hours a day as the County and its partners monitor and respond to Tropical Storm Idalia.

No evacuation orders are in place, and the county does not anticipate issuing any based on the forecast.

T.S. Idalia is paralleling the Lee County coast and will create tropical storm conditions for coastal communities, many of which continue to recover from Hurricane Ian. That is why Lee County announced the opening of two Safe Havens at 7 p.m. today. These are not shelters. They are a safe place for anyone who does not feel secure in their housing situation and who perhaps does not have a friend's home or a family member's home to go to.

The two Safe Havens will remain open tomorrow as Lee County monitors the conditions. They will be located at two county sites:

- North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL, 22903
- Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero, FL, 33928

If you need transportation to one of these sites but don't have a vehicle, you can still get there. LeeTran will activate emergency transportation service 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. tonight from Pine Island and Fort Myers Beach to the Safe Haven locations ahead of Hurricane Idalia.

Visit www.leegov.com/storm to link to that LeeTran info and see maps for pickup, or call United Way's 211 line. You can dial 2-1-1 or call 239-433-3900.

All LeeTran bus fares were temporarily waived until further notice beginning at 5 p.m. today. Those with special transportation needs should call 211 for additional assistance.

The storm forecast has forced the cancellation of the meeting planned for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, at Big Arts Sanibel, 900 Dunlop Road, to receive public comment and input on the Draft Action Plan for the \$1.1 billion Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds.

The public still has an opportunity to provide comment and input. The Draft Action Plan is published at www.leegov.com/recovery/cdbg-dr through Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. Comments can be emailed to recovery@leegov.com, mailed to Lee County Administration in care of the Office of Strategic Resources, 2115 Second St., Fort Myers, FL, 33901.

Lee County Government will be closed Tuesday to ensure as few people as possible need to travel during the tropical conditions. Links are available at www.leegov.com/storm to other sites such as city halls and constitutional offices. Residents should check there before driving to offices, as some are open and some will be closed.

Employees in county departments that are necessary for tropical events as well as employees at the Emergency Operations Center will be working Tuesday.

Lee County's Board workshop for Tuesday has been canceled.

Lee County Solid Waste will continue its Tuesday curbside collections as scheduled. Solid Waste's haulers do not have regularly scheduled routes on barrier islands tomorrow. If Tuesday is your trash day, put out bins tonight. If you are able to bring them back in after the hauler collects trash on Tuesday, do so as soon as possible.

Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc and visit the storm website at www.leegov.com/storm.