

## Preparing Before Hurricane Season

Every resident should make a plan and know what to do if a hurricane or tropical storm threatens Lee County.

Understanding potential risks will help individuals decide whether to shelter in place or evacuate the area. The preferred option should be staying with family or friends or at a hotel outside of the evacuation zone. If evacuating the area is not possible or an individual does not have a place to go, then Lee County Emergency Shelters should be considered.

**Individuals seeking shelter at a Lee County Emergency Shelter should bring any items that are critical to their survival.** Items may include but are not limited to:

- Snacks
- Medications
- Clothing
- Sleeping bags

Cots are provided to individuals assigned to the Special Medical Needs Shelter; however, cots are not provided to caregivers or those at General Population Shelters.

Individuals who require daily assistance must bring their own companion or caregiver, as one will not be provided on-site. If an individual does not have a caregiver, they can contact Lee County Emergency Management to discuss alternative solutions at **(239) 533-0640**.

## Helpful Links



### Special Medical Needs Application

[shelterapp.leegov.com](https://shelterapp.leegov.com)



### Family Hurricane Plan

[leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/plan](https://leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/plan)



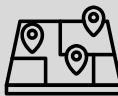
### American Sign Language (ASL) Preparedness Videos

[leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan](https://leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan)



### All Hazards Guide

[leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg](https://leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg)



### Know Your Evacuation Zone

[leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone](https://leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone)



### Public Shelters

[leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/shelters/publicshelters](https://leegov.com/public-safety/emergencymanagement/shelters/publicshelters)

**[www.LeeEOC.com](https://www.LeeEOC.com)**

# Special Medical Needs Shelter Program

Guidelines for Transportation and Sheltering



Registration applications must be updated once a year by calling (239) 533-0640 to verify information.



Lee County  
Southwest Florida

## Program Overview

If sheltering in place is not an option and an individual does not have any other safe place to evacuate to, they can seek shelter at one of Lee County's Emergency Public Shelters (General Population or Special Medical Needs).

Lee County will open shelters based on anticipated need. Open shelters will be posted on local TV and radio stations, the LeePrepares app, the County's social media sites and on *LeeEOC.com*. *Once Lee County enters the 7-day hurricane forecast cone, applications are no longer accepted.*

*Remember, weapons, alcohol, and smoking are not allowed at any Lee County Emergency Shelters*

### Special Medical Needs Shelter

A Special Medical Needs Shelter Program may open for people who require electricity for medical equipment or have complex medical issues that are unmanageable in a General Population Shelter. Pre-registration is required, prior to utilizing the Special Medical Needs Shelter.

Oxygen will be provided at the Special Medical Needs Shelter; therefore, concentrators should not be brought. Individuals that are oxygen-dependent should plan to bring enough oxygen in their portable tanks to get them to the shelter, through the registration process, and through their ride home, post-sheltering. The Special Medical Needs Shelter staff cannot refill portable tanks.

### General Population Shelters

Lee County has designated General Population Shelters that will accept anyone who is self-sufficient and does not need professional assistance for their Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). General Population Shelters do not require pre-registration.

*Remember, not every shelter opens for every storm.*

### Hospital-Type Shelters

There is limited space in hospital-type facilities for individuals who are medically fragile or have conditions that prevent them from sheltering outside a hospital-type environment. Sheltering at these facilities may take place in hallways, meeting rooms or other large gathering areas.

Hospital-type shelters do not provide medical care or offer a hospital bed. An individual **must** bring a companion or caregiver who will stay with them at the facility. Pets are not allowed at Hospital-Type Shelters; therefore, other arrangements must be made for these individuals' pets.



## Pet-Friendly Shelters

Aside from Hospital-Type Shelters, all Lee County Emergency Shelters are pet-friendly. Individuals seeking shelter remain responsible for their animals and their belongings.

If bringing a pet to a shelter, the individual is expected to provide a carrier or crate, food, leash, clean-up supplies, pet medication, and any other items the pet may need for the entirety of sheltering.

*Service Animals are allowed at all shelter facilities.*

## Transportation

Individuals seeking transportation assistance to a shelter are encouraged to complete a Special Medical Needs Shelter application. LeeTran will be the primary transportation agency for all sheltering efforts. LeeTran vehicles will accommodate pets, provided they are in a crate or carrier, or on a leash.

If an individual is unable to pre-register and still needs assistance, they can go to any LeeTran bus stop or LeeTran transfer station for a free ride to the closest available shelter. Download the "Transit" app [www.leegov.com/leetran/go-leetran](http://www.leegov.com/leetran/go-leetran) to know exact bus routes and schedules.