Wednesday afternoon/evening update from Lee County Emergency Operations Center:

The Florida Highway Patrol reports a higher volume of vehicles on Interstate 75 in South West Florida, but FHP reports traffic is moving with only minor delays.

No mandatory evacuations are in effect. Decisions about mandatory evacuations will be announced, most likely on Thursday.

No shelters are open. Decisions about which general-population shelters may open at which dates and times will be announced. We anticipate that announcement Thursday.

While the Special Needs Registration closes once Lee County enters the five-day error cone, residents who are not currently registered can go to a general-population shelter when and if they open. Once there, these residents will be triaged and if needed, transported to other facilities that can better meet their needs.

People can pick up sand at various locations. People should bring shovels and their own bags. If sandbags cannot be found, other items such as pillow cases, garbage bags and rolled tarps can be used. Here is an updated list as of Wednesday afternoon:

LOCATION
5850 BUCKINGHAM RD., LEHIGH
12345 PALM BEACH BLVD., FORT MYERS
2660 STYLES RD., ALVA
5700 PINE ISLAND RD., BOKEELIA
17350 NALLE RD., NORTH FORT MYERS
11901 REGIONAL LN., FORT MYERS
1280 BARRETT RD. NORTH FORT MYERS
2900 TRAIL DAIRY CIR., NORTH FORT MYERS FD
8013 SANIBEL BLVD., FORT MYERS
27701 BONITA GRANDE DR., BONITA SPRINGS
1000 JOEL BLVD., LEHIGH
3102 16TH ST SW., LEHIGH
TROPICAL SHORES WAY ST., FORT MYERS
750 DUNLOP RD., SANIBEL
8860 DANIELS PARKWAY., FORT MYERS
360 EAST RAILROAD AVE., BOCA GRANDE
6061 SOUTH POINTE BLVD., FORT MYERS

The United Way 211 Help Line is activated for those with questions. Although call takers are receiving many inquiries, the United Way 211 line is responding to all calls.

Go to www.leeeoc.com, as well as Facebook and Twitter for Lee County Emergency Operations.

Previous update – Wednesday morning – from Lee County Emergency Operations Center:

EOC is now at a Level 1 full activation today coordinating with partners at all levels.

As we get more precise information on local impacts from Irma, evacuation and sheltering decisions will be announced. This will most likely happen on Thursday and Friday, based on the forecast.

Earliest arrival of Tropical Storm force winds would be in the Saturday timeframe.
As a reminder, not all shelters open for every storm and shelter openings are based on storm characteristics like wind and storm surge. No shelters are open at this time.

Residents should continue to prepare by having a family disaster/evacuation plan, making sure their disaster supply kits are ready and by staying informed so they are ready to act when those evacuation orders are given.

A call-down of the Special Needs Registry is being completed today to determine evacuation support requirements for our Special Needs clients. Per the Lee County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, the Lee County Special Needs Registry closes once we are included in the five-day storm cone. Information about a special needs shelter will be available soon.

Area businesses that provide food, water and fuel are not in short supply; they are expected to restock today and Thursday.

The United Way 211 Help Line is activated for those with questions.

Go to www.leeeoc.com, as well as Facebook and Twitter for Lee County Emergency Operations.

Also, the LeeAlert mobile phone app ensures you receive emergency alerts from Lee County Emergency Operations. Also available: download the CodeRed app. Links to both can be found at www.leeeoc.com.

If and when the rains begin in advance of the hurricane approaching, motorists need to remember to not drive on flooded roads.