

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC  
Communications Director  
Lee County Government  
239-533-2221  
[LeeCountyPIO@leegov.com](mailto:LeeCountyPIO@leegov.com)

**Lee County Government update on Tropical Storm Milton**

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 6, 2024 – Lee County’s update on Tropical Storm Milton is available for viewing on the county’s YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/@LeeCountyFLBOC](https://www.youtube.com/@LeeCountyFLBOC). You can view it by clicking [here](#).

Some highlights from the briefing, which included Lee County Commissioners and Lee County Public Safety Director Benjamin Abes, are:

- No evacuation orders are in place at this time. The county anticipates issuing evacuation orders as soon as Monday and no later than Tuesday morning.
- Some general population shelters will open Monday afternoon, especially for those who are still recovering from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Ian. Additional shelters will open Tuesday. LeeTran will provide transportation to the shelters for those who need it. Remember to check [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm) to see which shelters open and when. The county is coordinating with the Florida Department of Health for its special needs sheltering operation.
- Emergency Operations Center is activated at a Level 2. That’s a partial activation. The EOC will go to a Level 1 full activation at 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 7.
- Lee County has executed a State of Local Emergency for T.S. Milton.
- Public Safety is monitoring and preparing with partners, including
  - National Weather Service
  - National Hurricane Center
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
  - Florida Division of Emergency Management
  - Local partners such as the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and School District of Lee County.
- T.S. Milton is expected to become a hurricane later today. Even if the forecasted cone shifts north or south, impacts including life-threatening storm surge will be felt here in Lee County.
- County offices will open as scheduled at 8 a.m. Monday, but will close at noon. The county will be closed from Monday afternoon through Thursday. The county will announce information about Friday operations on Thursday, depending on the storm’s impact.
- The Lee Board of County Commissioners meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8, has been canceled. It has not been rescheduled at this time.
- The county asks residents to take time today to:
  - Revisit your family emergency plan.
  - Know where you will go if you plan to leave.

- Check your emergency supply kit.
  - Secure objects around your home.
  - Be where you plan to be for the storm by Tuesday evening.
  - Monitor local meteorologists' reports.
  - Sign up for AlertLee.
  - Monitor [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm) and Lee County social media channels.
  - You have time to prepare today but the window to prepare is closing. The time for action is today.
  - Call the United Way's Emergency Information Hotline with questions. Dial 2-1-1 or 239-433-3900.
- Sand and sand bags
    - Consult your local fire department for availability of sand and sand bags.
    - Each site may have varying levels of inventory.
    - Emergency Operations is working with vendors to replenish sand at fire departments.
  - Solid Waste / debris
    - Helene debris collection continues to happen today. Debris will be collected Monday and will continue Tuesday as weather allows.
    - Do not put out additional Hurricane Helene debris or bulky waste.
      - This precaution will help minimize the dangers of debris becoming projectiles during T.S. Milton.
      - It also allows the haulers to pick up what's out there now
  - Solid Waste / regular pickup
    - Regular trash, recycling, yard waste that is scheduled for Monday will happen Monday.
    - Do not place out trash, recycling or yard waste on Tuesday or Wednesday.
      - All normal waste collection services are suspended for those days.
    - Announcements will be forthcoming on when regular collections will resume.
  - DOT and Natural Resources:
    - Crews are out today clearing storm drains, adjusting weirs, monitoring creeks and streams.
    - These activities have been ongoing since Hurricane Helene.

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