

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lee County broadens evacuation orders; additional shelters to open**

Fort Myers, FL, Sept. 27, 2022 – Lee County is in close communication with the National Weather Service, where meteorologists continue to monitor Hurricane Ian's progress toward Southwest Florida. They now say the storm is likely to make landfall as a Category 3 in Manatee County.

Although confidence in the track is still not absolute, this change means a higher level of storm surge becomes more likely for Lee County. The prediction is in the 5- to 10- foot range instead of the previously thought 4 to 7 feet.

Lee County must plan for a number of scenarios.

For that reason, county officials are expanding the Evacuation Order to include all of Zone B, including those along the Caloosahatchee River.

Earlier today, we issued evacuation orders for all of Zone A as and part of Zone B south of Veterans Parkway in Cape Coral. This new order impacts more residents in Cape Coral as well as some residents in the Fort Myers area.

United Way opened the emergency information line at 9 a.m. upon the opening of the emergency shelters. Residents with evacuation zone questions or shelter questions can call 2-1-1.

In addition to the 10 shelters the county opened at 9 a.m. today, five more shelters will open at noon today. They are:

Manatee Elementary School, 5301 Tice Street Fort Myers, FL 33905

Treeline Elementary School, 10900 Treeline Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33913

Tortuga Preserve Elementary, 1711 Gunnery Road N. Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Harns Marsh Middle School, 1820 Unice Avenue N., Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

The county website will be updated regularly at [leegov.com/storm](http://leegov.com/storm). Visit [www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone](http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone) for evacuation zone information. A map also is attached here and available at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm).

To watch the 8:45 a.m. Facebook Live announcement of the expanded evacuation zones, visit [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm) and scroll down to "video."

***Background – from 7 a.m. press conference today.***

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**Lee County orders evacuations for some residents, opens some shelters in advance of Hurricane Ian**

Fort Myers, FL, Sept. 27, 2022 – Lee County is issuing evacuation orders for barrier islands and low-lying areas in advance of Hurricane Ian's approach, and the county will open some of its shelters for evacuees who do not have other locations to stay.

The evacuation area includes:

All of Evacuation Zone A, which generally includes islands and coastal areas.

Part of Evacuation Zone B south of Veterans Parkway in Cape Coral.

Visit [www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone](http://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/knowyourzone)

A map also is attached here and available at [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm).

Residents in evacuation areas are asked to refrain from putting out garbage, recycling or yard waste before leaving the area. For those who are not in evacuation areas, regular pickup will occur today as scheduled. On Wednesday, services will be suspended countywide and reassessed as the emergency proceeds.

People who live in mobile homes and manufactured homes are also part of the evacuation order.

Shelters will open at 9 a.m. at the following locations. Only the listed shelters are opening at this time. All shelters are pet-friendly:

Dunbar High School  
3800 Edison Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33916

East Lee County High School  
715 Thomas Sherwin Ave.  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33974

Esteros Recreation Center  
9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.  
Esteros, FL 33928

Gateway High School  
13820 Griffin Dr.  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

Hertz Arena  
11000 Everblades Parkway  
Esteros, FL 33928

Island Coast High School  
2125 DeNavarra Pkwy.  
Cape Coral, FL 33909

Oak Hammock Middle School  
5321 Tice Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33905

South Fort Myers High School  
14020 Plantation Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Varsity Lakes Middle School  
801 Gunnery Road North  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Veterans Park Recreation Center  
49 Homestead Road S.  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

United Way is preparing to open the emergency information line at 9 a.m. upon the opening of the emergency shelters. Residents with evacuation zone questions or shelter questions can call 2-1-1.

Please remember you must bring your own personal items. More information is below. Or learn more about what to expect at shelter by watching this video:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KFC7hW2epY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KFC7hW2epY)

People who have friends or family with whom to stay outside the evacuation area are encouraged to make arrangements to do so, rather than going to a shelter.

Officials provided evacuation and shelter updates this morning from the Emergency Operations Center. To watch the press conference, visit [www.leegov.com/storm](http://www.leegov.com/storm), scroll down to “social media and news updates” and click on “video.”

Also Tuesday, Lee County moved to a full activation from a partial activation.

Residents are asked to monitor local media and meteorologists' reports and to check [www.leegov.com](http://www.leegov.com) for Hurricane Ian updates. Follow @Lee County Government on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](https://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc).

Additional information:

If you're heading to one of Lee County's shelters, you need to bring a Go Kit. Include a 3-day supply of food, water and snacks. You'll also need a pillow and sleeping bag; folding chair; medications and eyeglasses; disinfectant wipes; toilet paper; a 3-day supply of clothing; a sleep mask and earplugs; hygiene items; games or books; a phone charger or battery bank; and instant coffee or teabags. Lee County has a limited amount of shelters and space within the shelters.

Pets are allowed in all Lee County shelters, but you're responsible for bringing what they need. Pack your pet a Go Kit. Make sure there's a collar, leash, ID tags, and health records. Have a photo of you with your pet in case you become separated. Bring a crate or pet carrier. Include a week's worth of water; food and treats; clean-up supplies including waste bags for dogs and litter box with litter for cats; remember any medicines your pet needs. You can find out more about preparation at [leegov.com/hurricane](http://leegov.com/hurricane).