Lee County, Florida

ALL HAZARDS GUIDE

Preparedness: It's Everyone's Responsibility

Lee County
Southwest Florida

Department of Public Safety

To the Residents and Visitors of Southwest Florida,

The 2019 Hurricane Season is upon us and just like every year, we don't know exactly how it will impact us here in Southwest Florida. We do know that the better prepared we are, the faster we will recover as a community.

This All Hazards Guide will walk you through how to best prepare for all types of disasters we could face here in Lee County. Whether it be natural or manmade hazards, use the information in these pages to better prepare your family, your home and your business.

Create a simple Family Emergency Plan at **www.LeeEOC.com**, build a Disaster Supply Kit for when you might have to evacuate or shelter at home, and know where to go to get potentially lifesaving information before and after a disaster. This guide will help you do all of these things and more.

Responding to and recovering from a disaster is truly a whole community effort and is everyone's responsibility. At Lee County Public Safety we ask that you and your family do your part by creating a "Culture of Preparedness" at home, and share this information with your friends and neighbors. By planning ahead, you can be sure that your stress level will be lower, outcomes better and that you will recover more quickly.

Thank you and be prepared,

Lee Mayfield, Director
Lee County Emergency Management

Lee County Department of Public Safety
14752 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33912 | (239) 533-3911 | www.safelee.org

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Cover Photo: Ethan Cottle

Important Phone Numbers & Websites

	Normal Business	Emergency
American Red Cross (Local Chapter)	239-278-3401	239-278-3401
Arson Alert Hotline	800-342-5869	800-342-5869
Blood Donor Centers	888-9-DONATE	
- Lee Memorial Blood Center	239-343-2333	
- Florida's Blood Centers	239-574-3170	
Cape Coral Emergency Management	239-573-3022	911
Cape Coral Police Department (non-emergency)	239-574-3223	911
Dept. of Financial Services (Insurance)	239-461-4001	800-22-STORM
Federal Emergency Management Agency	800-621-3362	800-462-7585
Florida Division of Emergency Management	850-413-9969	
Fort Myers Police Department	239-321-7700	911
Lee County Animal Services	239-533-7387	239-533-7387
Lee County Emergency Information Hotline/United Way 211	239-433-2000	211
Lee County Emergency Management	239-533-0622	239-533-0622
Lee County Government	239-533-2111	
Lee County Health Department	239-332-9501	239-332-9501
Lee County Public Safety & EMS	239-533-3911	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	239-477-1000	911
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	850-617-3004	
National Weather Service/Tampa Bay	813-645-2323	
Poison Information	800-222-1222	800-222-1222
Salvation Army, The	239-278-1551	239-278-1551
Sanibel Police Department	239-472-3111	911
Traffic Conditions in Florida (Current)	511	511
United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee Counties	239-433-2000	211

Websites	
Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)	www.ready.gov/citizen-corps
Department of Financial Services (Insurance)	www.myfloridacfo.com
Department of Homeland Security	www.dhs.gov/
Florida Lightning Safety	www.weather.gov/safety/lightning
Mobile or Manufactured Home Residents	www.flhsmv.gov/mobilehome
American Sign Language Preparedness Videos	www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan
StormReady	www.weather.gov/stormready/

Online Tools

Lee County Emergency Management's online communication tools have increased our ability to engage the community in a different environment, allowing for more feedback at the local level.

Following is a list of online resources providing useful information to help you be prepared for an emergency.

Lee County Emergency Management Website - www.LeeEOC.com

Our website is a one-stop shop to find the information and tools you need to prepare your family for any hazards that can happen in Southwest Florida. You can find:

- *Family Preparedness Plan* – A comprehensive, easy-to-use template to help you prepare a plan of action for an emergency situation.
- *Special Medical Needs Program Application* – A no-cost program available to those with medical needs.
- *Shelter locations* – A comprehensive listing of shelters in Lee County.
- *Notifications & Resources* – Links to social media accounts, apps and websites.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/LCEMFL - Official Lee County Emergency Management page. Offers preparedness information in addition to emergency information

www.facebook.com/LCEMVolunteers - Lee County Emergency Management Volunteers page. Provides information on how you can help Lee County prepare for emergencies.

Twitter

@LeeEOC – Official Lee County Emergency Management Twitter account. Offers emergency information.

@LCEMFL – Official Lee County Emergency Management Twitter account. Emergency information and year-round updates on seminars, safety tips. Etc.

LeePrepares

Download this free app to find your evacuation zone and sign up for evacuation text notifications. Shelter locations, preparedness information and local weather is provided. Available through both Apple & Android stores.

AlertLee

Sign up for this free service to receive phone calls, texts and/or email about significant emergencies or critical protective actions needed to safeguard life and property. Register at **www.AlertLee.com.**

Ride LeeTran

Visit **www.RideLeeTran.com** for real-time bus tracking, find your nearest bus stop and plan your trip.

Volunteer Application

Lee County's volunteer program provides service opportunities including office assistance, emergency management duties and accredited student volunteer hours. Visit **www.LeeEOC.com** to apply.

Know Your Evacuation Zone

Lee County service which allows you to find your evacuation zone by entering your address. A link can be found on our website – **www.LeeEOC.com** and on the LePrepares app.

NOAA Weather Radios

These radios provide 24-hour broadcasting providing current and forecasted weather conditions. This is the earliest warning system for sudden weather hazards such as tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. These radios can be purchased online and in stores.

Emergency Alert System & Wireless Emergency Alerts

This Federal emergency alert system may be used by State and Local authorities for emergencies. The emergency alert system sends messages on radio and TV. The wireless emergency alerts are sent via phones.

Television & Radio Stations

NOAA Weather Radios provide 24-hour continuous broadcasting of current and forecasted weather conditions. The following are the identification or FIPS codes for Lee and our adjoining counties:

- **Fort Myers Channel 4 (162.475 MHz)**
- **Lee - 012071**
- Collier - 012021
- Desoto - 012027
- Charlotte - 012015
- Hendry - 012051

WGCU-90.1FM is the Southwest Florida affiliate of the Florida Public Radio Emergency Network, a system created to communicate information statewide before, during and after an emergency.

Stations in the network are equipped to stay on the air even during power outages and will continue to provide information during the recovery of a major weather event or other emergency. Working in partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Lee County Emergency Operations Centers, listeners can be assured of having access to the most up-to-date information.

TV STATIONS	AFFILIATE	LOCAL / SATELLITE
WUVF-LP	Univision	2
WINK	CBS	11.1
WTPH-LP	Azteca America	14
WTLE-LP	Unimas	18
WBBH	NBC	20.1
WZVN	ABC	26.1
WGCU	PBS	30.1
WFTX	FOX	36.1
WWDT-CA	Telemundo	43
WXCW	CW	46.1
WRXY	CTN (Religious)	49.1
WLZE-LP	Univision	51.1

RADIO – AM			
WAQI	710	WAFZ	1490
WJBX	770	WCCF	1580
WWBA	820	WNPL	1460
WAXA	1200	WFLN	1480
WNOG	1270	WSRQ	1220
WWCL (Spanish)	1440	WLSS	930

RADIO – FM			
WGCU	90.1	WZJZ	100.1
WFSX	92.5	WAVV	101.1
WIKX	92.9	WWGR	101.9
WWDH	93.3	WJGO	102.9
WXNX	93.7	WXKB	103.9
WARO	94.5	WSGL	104.7
WOLZ	95.3	WCVU	104.9
WRXK	96.1	WJPT	106.3
WINK	96.9	WCKT	107.1
WTLQ	97.7		

Emergency alerts are passed through to some audio/video streaming services and other services are working towards participating.

Hurricanes & Flooding

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. Peak hurricane season is between August and October.

Hurricanes are not just coastal problems. They can affect residents along the major rivers and waterways in Southwest Florida to Lake Okeechobee.

There are specific risks associated with hurricanes such as wind, tornadoes, heavy rainfall and storm surge. Of these, the greatest risk to life is posed by storm surge and rainfall flooding.

Hurricane Irma approaching Florida

Storm Surge vs. Flooding

Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a tropical storm or hurricane. As these storms make landfall, they produce water level rise and strong winds that push water into shore. Storm surge forecasts do not account for large crashing waves or debris in the water.

Due to low elevation and proximity to beaches and other tidal waters, storm surge can travel far inland in Lee County.

Heavy or prolonged rain can result in flooding. Prolonged rainfall saturates the ground and less of the water can be soaked up. Heavy rainfall can have less of a chance to be soaked up by the soil.

'Sheet flow' is a natural flow of water south through the Florida peninsula and may cause flooding along rivers, creeks and canals.

Need to Know ☑

- Foundations of homes may fail.
- Standing water may contain debris, chemicals, and raw sewage.
- Electricity may be out – potentially for a long time.
- Tap water may be unsafe for drinking, bathing or cooking.
- Roadways & bridges may sustain heavy damage, be covered in water and/or debris.

- Flood waters may contain debris, chemicals, and raw sewage.
- Electricity cannot be restored with high water levels surrounding homes.
- Well water may be unsafe for drinking, bathing or cooking.
- Septic tanks may fail or become damaged.
- Young children and animals can drown, be injured, or become severely ill from playing or swimming in flood waters.

Be Prepared -Stay Safe - Stay Dry!

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category 1

Winds: 75 to 95 mph
Damage: Minimal; signs, tree branches, power lines down

Category 2

Winds: 96 to 110 mph
Damage: Moderate; larger signs, tree branches blown down

Category 3

Winds: 111 to 130 mph
Damage: Extensive; minor damage to buildings, trees blown down

Category 4

Winds: 131 to 155 mph
Damage: Extreme; almost total destruction of doors/windows

Category 5

Winds: More than 155 mph
Damage: Catastrophic; buildings, roofs, structures destroyed

Evacuate or Shelter in Place?

Deciding whether to evacuate or shelter in place depends upon the incident or event occurring. Various natural and man-made hazards could happen in this area, such as floods, extreme heat, tropical cyclones, hazardous material spills, and pandemic diseases, just to name a few. Each of these requires careful thought and planning. The first step is to know your risks and personal needs.

For weather events that may result in evacuations being ordered, you need to know your evacuation zone. Does your neighborhood flood during heavy rains? Do you require electricity for medical equipment/conditions? Evaluating your risks will help you be better informed on where to shelter. Sheltering with family, friends or in a hotel will be more comfortable than a shelter, but we will open shelters for these events. If Emergency Management orders your zone to be evacuated, you need to leave the area for your safety.

For hazardous material spills or heavy smoke from a wildfire in the area, sheltering in place may be the appropriate choice. Tune into news or social media sites to get instructions from officials. During extreme heat waves, if you do not have air conditioning, seek shelter in a shopping mall and stay hydrated.

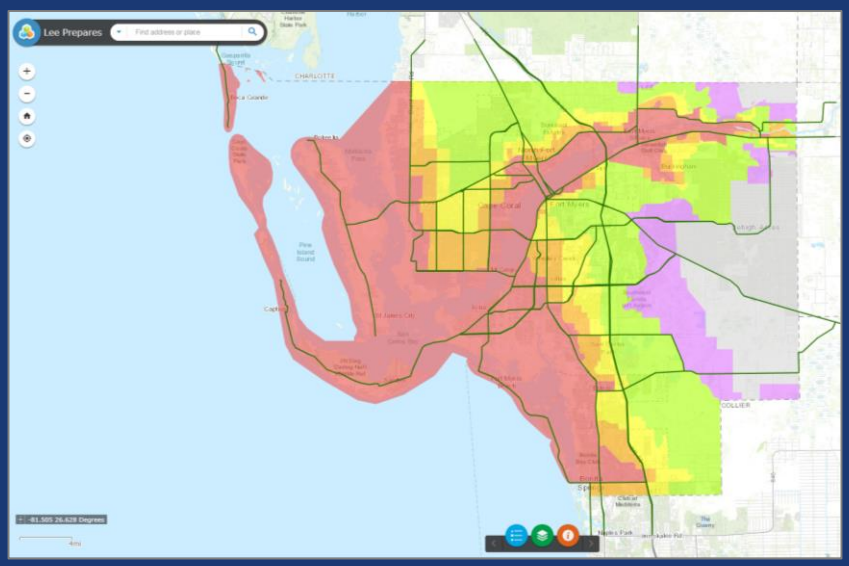
Having a plan for what you will do in events like these will allow you to prepare in advance, rather than react and panic. Emergency Management has a list of hazards and a Family Emergency Plan on our website **www.LeeEOC.com** and LeePrepares app.

Know Your Evacuation Zone

Do you know your Evacuation Zone?

Visit our website **www.LeeEOC.com** to find out what zone you are in.

1. Click on “Know My Evacuation Zone” in the navigation bar;
2. Click the Find My Evacuation Zone link;
3. Enter your address in the search bar.



Plan – Prepare – Pass it on

The time to develop emergency plan is *prior to* a disaster. Being prepared will help keep you and your loved ones safe and establish a reliable network of support during a crisis.

Plan

- Know your risks:
  - What is your Storm Surge/Evacuation Zone?
  - Are you in a flood zone?
  - Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
  - What year was your house built?
  - Does your house have storm shutters?

Prepare

- Prepare evacuation or sheltering options.
- Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit before the start of hurricane season.
- The Family Emergency Plan is a great tool to help you create a plan that is specific to your family's needs. Find it on our website www.LeeEOC.com.
- Secure items in and around your home before tropical storm force winds arrive.
- Practice as many elements of your plan as possible.

Pass it on

- Be sure all family members know who to call or where to gather if you become separated.
- Let family and friends in other locations know your evacuation plans.

Preparation Tips

- Prepare a shelter plan.
- Know your evacuation route.
- Set your phone up for emergency alerts & warnings.
- Prepare a family communication plan.

Hurricane Supply List

Food related

- ☐ Drinking water – 1 gallon, per person, per day
- ☐ Non-perishable food/special dietary needs
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Juice/instant coffee/tea bags
- ☐ Cooler
- ☐ Lighter/matches
- ☐ Pots/pans/Camp stove or grill

Personal Items

- ☐ Blankets, pillows, sleeping bag, cot
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Spare glasses/contacts
- ☐ Hearing aid batteries
- ☐ Extra clothing/rain gear/closed toe shoes
- ☐ Personal items such as books, toys or cards
- ☐ Infant and/or senior supplies
- ☐ Important papers including valid identification
- ☐ Spare keys
- ☐ Cash/Credit cards/change/checks
- ☐ Pens/pencils/paper

Medical

- ☐ Two-week supply of prescribed medication
- ☐ Cooler with ice for medications, if needed
- ☐ Medical equipment & assistive devices
- ☐ Medical alert tags or bracelets that identify your disability-related needs

Pets/Service Animals

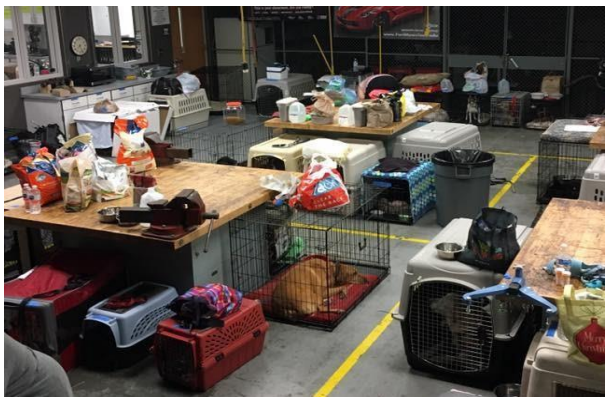
- ☐ Water – 1 gallon per animal, per day
- ☐ Cate or carrier for each animal
- ☐ Food/treats
- ☐ Toys/comfort items
- ☐ Clean-up supplies
- ☐ Immunization records/photos

Safety Equipment

- ☐ Battery-operated radio, flashlight, television, clock
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ NOAA Weather Radio
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Landline phone
- ☐ Chemical light sticks
- ☐ Whistle

General Population & Pet Friendly Shelters

General Population Shelters



A shelter is a safe place to be during an emergency. However, it offers only the basic life-sustaining necessities. The shelter may not have electricity for the majority of your stay. It will be noisy, crowded and somewhat uncomfortable.

Lee County has a limited amount of shelters and space within the shelters. Plan to use an alternate location. If you have no other safe place to go, shelters will be open.

Not all shelters will be opened during every storm. A list of Lee County shelters can be found in this publication and on our website – **www.LeeEOC.com**. Local radio, television news and our website will broadcast open shelters.

Service animals are allowed at all shelters. "Service Animals" are defined as a dog or miniature horse that is trained to perform a service or task for their owners and are not pets. Comfort animals or emotional support animals are NOT service animals.

Be prepared

Limited food and water will be available; bring three-days' worth of your own food and water, too. Cots are not provided. Bring items that will help you through this difficult time such as sleeping bags, water, snacks or special dietary needs, books, clothing and medications.

Arriving at the shelter

Accountability is important for your safety – register with shelter staff and check out if you leave. Be considerate of others around you. Listen for official information. Consider volunteering to help shelter staff.

Pet-Friendly Shelters

Pet shelters will be available for every storm although locations may vary. No registration is required. For the safety of other sheltered people and animals, make alternate plans for any animals posing a danger.

Prepare a supply kit for your pets including non-perishable food & water, medications, sturdy cage or carrier, collar & leash, up-to-date vaccination records pet waste bags. Cat crates must be large enough to include a litter pan. Your pets identification should be on its collar and consider microchipping for easier location should they get separated from you. Lee County Animal Services offers a low-cost microchipping program to County pet owners. More information can be found at **www.leegov.com/animalservices** or call 239-533-7387.

If you have exotic pets, check with your veterinarian for suggestions on shelters for them.

Lee County strives to provide a safe environment during emergency situations.

Smoking, alcohol and guns are prohibited at all shelters.

Preparation Tips

- Know shelter locations.
- Listen to the radio or look online for shelter opening information.
- Prepare items needed at shelters – for family and pets.

Special Medical Needs Program

Lee County is committed to assisting residents whose health would quickly deteriorate in a public shelter during emergencies. The Special Needs Program is available to all Lee County residents at no cost.

Who Qualifies for Special Medical Needs Shelter?

Special medical needs shelters are for people:

- With medical impairments or disabilities who are medically stable but require medical assistance.
- Whose care exceeds basic first aid provided at a public shelter or need assistance with basic, everyday tasks.
- Who require electricity for medical equipment such as oxygen, nebulizers, IV pumps, etc.
- With medical conditions such as moderate/advanced Alzheimer's, dialysis, comorbidity, moderate/advanced neuromuscular disorders.

How Do I Register?

The easiest way to register is online at **www.LeeEOC.com**

You can register yourself, or a family member or caregiver can register for you. If you do not have access to a computer, you can also register by calling Lee County Emergency Management at 239-533-0622.

Registrations must be renewed yearly.

Register early - registrations will not be taken once Lee County enters the five-day hurricane forecast cone.

Preparation Tips

- Register with the Special Medical Needs Program.
- Have a Go-Kit ready.
- Make arrangements for a caregiver or friend to accompany you.

Do I Need a Caregiver?

A companion or caregiver needs to accompany you during the time you shelter. Florida Department of Health-Lee County has a limited number of staff working. Caregivers will need to bring shelter survival supplies for themselves.

Visit **www.LeeEOC.com** or call Lee County Emergency Management at 239-533-0622 for more information.

What if I Need Transportation?

If you do not have a vehicle or a ride to get to a Special Medical Needs shelter or a general population shelter, you can register for transportation. Lee County Emergency Management works with LeeTran to organize transportation for those who need assistance.

What if I do not pre-register?

If you have not pre-registered and do not have a ride, you can go to any LeeTran bus stop or transfer station for a free bus ride to a shelter.

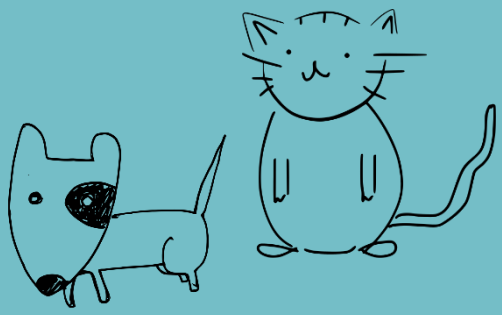
Bus schedules & the Transit app are available on the LeeTran website: **www.RideLeeTran.com**.

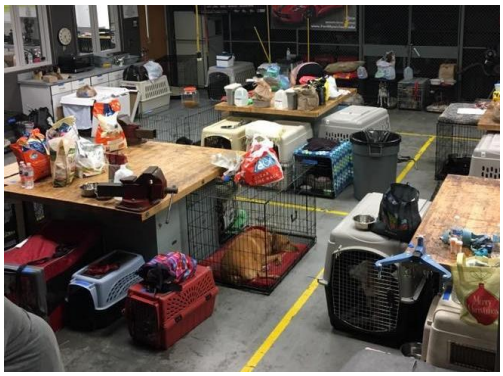
Service animals are allowed in all shelters. You can bring your dog or cat with you to a Special Medical Needs shelter. Animals are housed in a different area but you will have access to feed, walk and spend time with them.

Bring food and supplies your pet will need while at the shelter.

PET SAFETY TIPS

Be Prepared & Plan Ahead





Planning is the best way to keep your pets safe during an evacuation event. Remember that if it is not safe for you, its not safe for them.

Make sure your pets are microchipped and vaccines are current. Microchips only work if they are registered with current contact information. Find more information about Lee County's microchip program at **www.leegov.com/animalservices**.

Plan and assemble an emergency kit for your pets, whether you shelter in place, plan to evacuate or go to a shelter.

Pet Go-Kit Supplies

Water and food bowls

Pet's health records & medication

Manual can opener and spoon

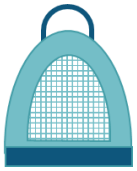
Familiar items: Treats, toys and bedding can help reduce stress for your pet and help it feel more secure.

First aid kit: Cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape & scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea & tick prevention; latex gloves & isopropyl alcohol. Including a pet first aid reference book is a good idea too.

A picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated, a picture of you and your pet together will help document ownership.

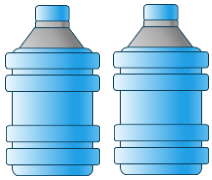
Sanitation: newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household bleach.

Collar and leash (even for cats) with ID and rabies tag



Crate or pet carrier. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lay down.

Litter & litter boxes for cats. Poopy bags for dogs.



Water: One gallon per day, for seven days, for each animal

Food & treats for at least a week

Preparing your Boat for a Hurricane

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe, threatening weather is planning, preparation, and timely action. The following precautions and checklists are meant as guidelines only.

Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, local boating environment, the severe weather conditions likely to occur in that region, and the characteristics of safe havens and/or plans for protection. Listen to your local Emergency Management office for specific evacuations related to boats.

- Do not stay aboard.
- Develop detailed plan to secure your vessel in the marina. Remove your vessel, if possible. Practice your plan to ensure that it works.
- Check your lease or storage rental agreement with the marina or storage area. Know your responsibilities and liabilities.
- Consolidate your records, including insurance policies. Have a recent photo of your vessel, the Hull Identification Number (HIN#), phone number for harbor master, Coast Guard, etc.
- Items of value should be marked for easy identification if lost in the storm. Label paddle boards, kayaks, life jackets, etc. with phone numbers.
- Remove all moveable equipment: canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, biminis, roller furling sails.
- Lash down everything you cannot remove: tillers, wheels, booms.
- Make sure electrical system is turned off unless you plan to leave the boat in the water. Remove battery and portable fuel.

Find boating safety information on the U.S. Coast Guard's site - **www.uscgboating.org**

Trailerable Boats

- Ensure your tow vehicle is capable of moving the boat. Check trailer, tires bearings and axle are in good condition.
- Once at a 'safe place', lash your boat & trailer and place blocks between the frame members and axle inside each wheel.
- Secure your boat with heavy nylon lines to fixed objects. If possible, find a location that will allow you to secure it from all four sides. It can be tied to screw anchors. Do not secure your boat to a tree.

Non-Trailerable Boats

- In dry storage:
  - Never leave a boat on davits or on a hydro-lift.
- In wet storage:
  - Secure boat in marina berth.
  - Moor boat in safe area.
  - Haul the boat.
  - Leave area well in advance.

Boats Remaining in Marina Berth

- Double all lines. Rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise or surge. Make sure lines will not slip off pilings. Inspect pilings and choose those that seem strongest, tallest and are properly installed. The longer the dock lines, the better a boat will be at coping with high tides. It is also essential to double up on all lines and use chafe protectors at any potential chafe points.
- Install fenders to protect the boat from rubbing against the pier, pilings and other boats. Cover all lines at rough points to prevent chafing.
- Assess the attachment of primary cleats, winches and chocks. These should have substantial backing plates and adequate stainless steel bolt sizes.
- Batteries should be fully charged and checked to ensure their capability to run automatic bilge pumps for the duration of the storm. Consider backup batteries. Cut off all devices consuming electricity except bilge pumps.

2019 Evacuation Zones and Public Shelters

EMERGENCY PUBLIC SHELTERS

Bonita Springs
1. Bonita Springs YMCA – 27200 Kent Rd

Cape Coral
2. Island Coast High School – 2125 DeNavarra Pkwy

Estero
3. Estero Recreation Center – 9200 Corkscrew Palm Blvd
4. Hertz Arena – 11000 Everblades Pkwy

Fort Myers
5. Dunbar High School – 3800 Edison Ave
6. South Fort Myers High School – 14020 Plantation Blvd
7. Treeline Elementary School - 10900 Treeline Ave

Lehigh Acres
8. East Lee County High School – 715 Thomas-Sherwin Ave
9. Harns Marsh Elementary School – 1800 Unice Ave N
10. Harns Marsh Middle School – 1820 Unice Ave N
11. Mirror Lakes Elementary School – 525 Charwood Ave
12. Tortuga Preserve Elementary School - 1711 Gunnery Rd
13. Varsity Lakes Middle School – 801 Gunnery Rd
14. Veterans Park Recreation Center – 49 Homestead Rd

North Fort Myers
15. North Fort Myers Academy of the Arts – 1856 Arts Way
16. North Fort Myers Recreation Center – 2000 N Recreation Park Way

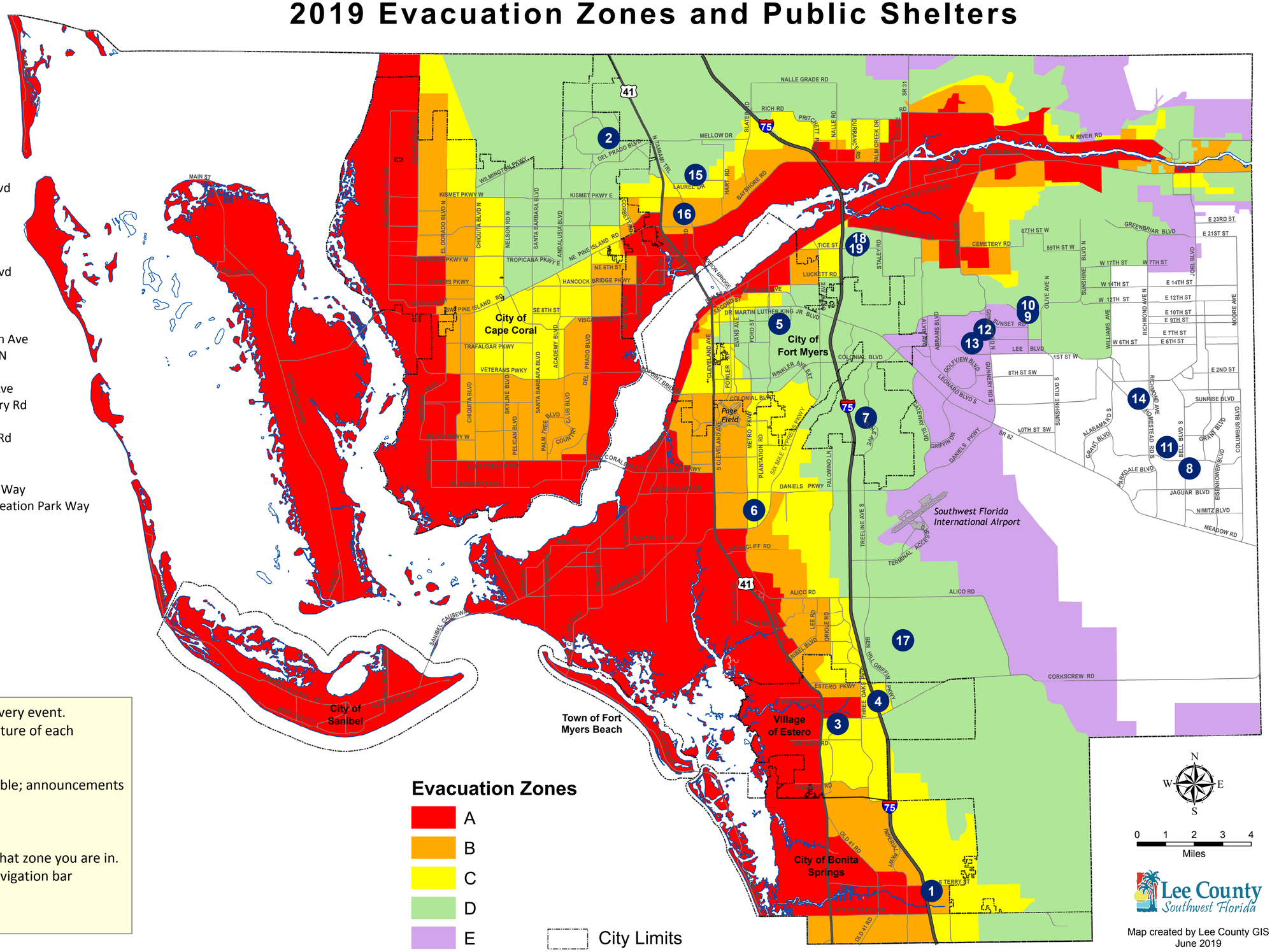
San Carlos
17. Alico Arena – 12181 FGCU Lake Pkwy

Tice
18. Manatee Elementary School - 5301 Tice St
19. Oak Hammock Middle School – 5321 Tice St

****Be Advised: NOT all shelters will be open for every event.**
The opening of shelters is dependent upon the nature of each specific event.

Please Note: Pet-friendly sheltering will be available; announcements will be made at the time.

Know Your Evacuation Zone:
Visit our website www.LeeEOC.com to find out what zone you are in.
1. Click on "Know My Evacuation Zone" in the navigation bar
2. Click the Find My Evacuation Zone link
3. Enter your address in the search bar



Lee County Southwest Florida

Map created by Lee County GIS
June 2019

Source: Lee County Emergency Management

Home & Insurance Prep

Are you covered?

Most property owners have homeowners insurance coverage insuring them from catastrophic loss. However a homeowners policy does not protect you from loss in flooding or rising water.

To insure your home from flood (rising water) you must have a separate flood insurance policy. Lee County qualifies and participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. These insurance tips may reduce your risk of harm and quicken the Recovery process:

If you do not have a flood insurance policy, check with your insurance agent for a price quote on your home and your personal property.

National Flood Insurance Program Information:

www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program

Do not wait

There is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance becomes effective, unless you are purchasing a new home with a mortgage.

BEFORE THE STORM	AFTER THE STORM
Know your coverage Check that your insurance covers improvements you've made. Obtain flood insurance.	**Report damage immediately** Obtain a claim number and a "Claims phone number" if available.
Take a household inventory Itemize your personal property, costs, dates of purchase and serial numbers.	**Document emergency repairs** Take photos of damage before & after repairs. Keep receipts. Make copies for your records.
Safeguard your records Have important papers like insurance policies, mortgages, titles, auto & health insurance in a central place.	**Secure your property** Remove valuable items. Lock windows and doors. Place valuables in a safe deposit box or take them with you.

House Safety

Wind is one of the most dramatic elements most people associate with hurricanes. Consult a qualified expert if you have any questions about the safety of your home.

Things you will want to know:

- When was your home built?
- Where are you located?
- How many stories is your home?
- How strong are your walls?
- What kind of roof do you have?
- How is the roof connected to the walls?
- How do you protect the openings in your home?

Manufactured & Mobile Homes

- Anchors are required per Florida law.
- Tie-downs should be checked at least once a year.
- Review Florida Administrative Code 15C-1 for tie-down requirements.
- Utility/storage sheds, carports and other vulnerable structures need to be secured.
- No matter how good your tie-downs are, evacuation is the best plan to save your life.

Flood Preparation

What Is The Risk Of Flooding In Lee County?

In Lee County, flood risk generally results from two types of storm events: wave surge from hurricanes that can cause coastal flooding & heavy rainfall, and the natural flow of water south through the Florida peninsula (often referred to as "sheet flow") that may cause flooding along rivers, creeks, and canals.

As part of its Local Mitigation Strategy, Lee County Public Safety conducted a formal assessment of the flood risk in Lee County.

FEMA updated information about the principal flooding problems in unincorporated Lee County as part of its 2014 Coastal Discovery Report, which can be viewed at **www.leegov.com/dcd/flood**, along with the detailed flooding history in FEMA's 2008 Flood Insurance Study for Lee County.

Prepare for Hurricanes

Before a hurricane or storm approaches:

- Prepare a go-bag for your family and pets.
- Obey evacuation notices.
- Report blocked ditches, swales and canals.
- Learn more at: **www.leegov.com/publicsafety**

Know Your Flood Hazard

Learn your flood hazard, flood zone & map information by visiting: **www.leegov.com/dcd/flood**

You can also

- Learn about historic flooding in Lee County in FEMA's 2008 Flood Insurance Rate Study and 2014 Coastal Discovery Report **www.leegov.com/ dcd/Documents/ FloodMapping/FEMAFloodZones/2014DiscoveryReport.pdf**
- Look up your flood zone: **leegis.leegov.com/floodzone**
- Download or print flood maps and other flood related documents. Flood zones, which begin with an "A" or a "V", require flood insurance if the property is mortgaged.

Protect Home & Property

People:

- Share this guide with your family & friends
- Stay out of flood waters. They can contain dangerous chemicals, gasoline, oil & sewage.
- Learn more:
  - **www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/disaster#ProtectPeople**
  - **www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/disaster/prep**

Property:

- Ask your community floodplain manager about flood protection assistance.
- Jurisdiction staff provides one-on-one advice to anyone interested in protecting their building from flood damage.
- Some instances may include a site visit followed by a written summary of the flood problem and recommended alternatives. The reviews may include how elevating a building, retrofitting flood openings, and having the proper enclosed areas can reduce flood insurance premiums.
- Visit FEMA's virtual library to learn how to protect structures:
  - **www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/13261**

How Does Lee County Address Flood Emergencies?

Lee County joined the National Flood Insurance Program in 1984. As a result:

- Lee County property owners may purchase flood insurance policies through the NFIP.
- FEMA will provide disaster assistance in Lee County in the event of a federally declared disaster.
- FEMA routinely assesses the risk of flooding here and updates Flood Insurance Risk Maps.

In addition, Lee County and all of its municipalities participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System, which provides a discount in the cost of the flood insurance policy. More information is available online - **www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program.**

Flood Preparation

Choose Your Flood Warning System

In addition to traditional communication through mass media, Lee County Emergency Management will notify residents individually of dangerous flooding through multiple methods of outreach:

- **LeePrepares -** Download this free app to find your evacuation zone and sign up for evacuation text notifications. Shelter locations, preparedness information and local weather is provided. Available through both Apple & Android stores.
- **AlertLee -** Sign up for this free service to receive phone calls, texts and/or email about significant emergencies or critical protective actions needed to safeguard life and property. Register at **www.AlertLee.com.**
- **Facebook** – This Facebook page posts real-time updates about emergency conditions and always offers general preparedness information.
- **Twitter** – There are two Twitter accounts:
  - **@LeeEOC** - offers purely emergency information.
  - **@LCEMFL** - offers also includes general and preparedness information.
- **IPAWS** – Lee County Public Safety is a FEMA Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) Alerting Authority. We can utilize the IPAWS to alert and warn Lee County residents and visitors about serious emergencies through various means, including the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio.

You can learn more about participating in all of these at **www.LeeEOC.com.**

Flood Zones & Evacuation Zones are NOT the Same

Flood zones are routinely used for flood insurance ratings and some building code requirements.

Evacuation zones are used in emergencies. When a storm is approaching, it is time to know your Evacuation zone. For more information, visit: **www.leegov.com/dcd/Documents/FloodMapping/FEMAFloodZones/FloodZoneVSEvac.pdf**

After the storm

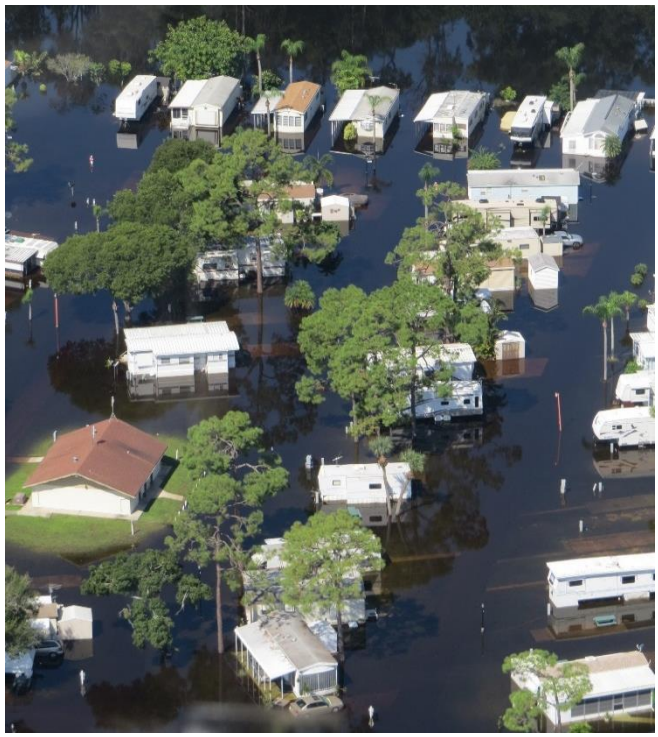
- Do life-saving & damage mitigation immediately.
- Get a permit for permanent repairs.
- Be cautious about ground water, food safety and dehydration.
- Register for Individual Assistance: In a Federally Declared disaster, if your property/structure was damaged, immediately apply for Individual Assistance (IA) with FEMA even if you do not need IA immediately. This will ensure you are in the system to be eligible for SBA loans even after the IA registration deadline has passed. **www.DisasterAssistance.gov**

Flood zone information or copies of elevation certificates (IF on record)

For properties in *city limits* call:

Bonita Spring	239-444-6150
Cape Coral	239-574-0553
Fort Myers	239-321-7000
Ft Myers Beach	239-768-0202
Estero	239-319-2811
Sanibel	239-472-3700

For all other properties not within city limits (also called unincorporated Lee County), call: 239-533-8585



Flood Preparation

Build Responsibly

- Get a permit before you build; check with your jurisdiction to see if your project requires a building permit.
- Know the safety and insurance benefits of exceeding minimum standards.
- Before you remodel, learn about flood regulations and building codes.
- If your property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, it must meet a base flood elevation and other National Flood Insurance regulations. Learn about them at: **www.leegov.com/dcd/flood/defined**.
- Consider the advantages of building higher than the base flood elevation. Doing so will lower the cost of flood insurance and will lessen the risk of flood damage.
- Agricultural buildings in the Special Flood Hazard area (A, AE or V zone) are not exempt from NFIP Program construction requirements, even though they are exempt from the Florida Building Code.
- Fill & construction are prohibited in regulatory floodways unless the work is permitted by a No Rise Certification.

Insure Your Property

- Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reports that nearly 20% of flood insurance claims are for properties in moderate to low-risk areas.
- Buy flood insurance for your home. Buy flood insurance for your contents.
- You don't have to own your home or business to get an NFIP policy. The NFIP offers insurance for renters' possessions.
- Most property/casualty insurance does not cover flood damage. The NFIP, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a federal provider of flood insurance policies.
- Flood insurance is required for mortgages on structures in areas designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area & Coastal High Hazard Area.
- Live In a low-risk flood zone? Take advantage of the preferred rate policy for flood insurance.
- If you don't have a mortgage and are not required to have flood insurance, consider getting an NFIP policy anyway. Recovering from flood damage is expensive. Just one inch of water can cost up to $27,000 or more in repairs.
- In addition to the insurance coverage, it may also be an advantage if you sell the property to a buyer who finances with a mortgage. The policy may transfer to the new owner, possibly offering some cost savings.
- Learn more about flood insurance at **www.fema.gov** or call 800-427-2419.

Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

- Protection and restoration of natural flowways and maintenance of drainage ditches, weirs and canals, sewer systems and other water conveyances helps to ensure proper surface water management to mitigate the effects of storms or sheet flow.
- Local jurisdictions maintain the water conveyances in public rights of way, and private property owners are responsible for clearing and maintaining drainage conveyances on private property.
- Don't block natural flowways.
- If you have a concern about maintenance of a drainage conveyance, contact the building or Community Development department for your community.
- For property in unincorporated Lee County, call the Request for Action Hotline at 239-533-9400 or fill out the Request for Action Form online at **www.leegov.com**.

"100 year flood" MISCONCEPTION

You may have heard the term "100-Year Flood Zone" and think "A flood like that only happens once in every one hundred years." Unfortunately, that is an old adage and is untrue. The SFHA (Special Flood Hazard Area) is an area that has a one-percent chance, or a one-in-one hundred chance, of a flood happening in any given year. That means a "One Hundred Year" flood could happen this year, and again next year. It has nothing to do with calendar years. The term "100-year flood" is now referred to as the "1% annual chance" flood.

Drainage Systems

Drainage Systems Require Maintenance

Lee County is interlaced with a system of canals, ditches, and waterways that serve to direct the flow of floodwater. It is most important that these elements of the floodwater drainage system be kept clear of debris and trash that could impede the flow of water during a flood situation.

To report drainage problems in incorporated areas call your city Public Works. In unincorporated Lee County, Call Lee County DOT at 239-533-9400 or email **rfa@leegov.com**. After 5:30 pm and on weekends call 239-533-3626**.**

Dumping of debris and trash in the drainage system or alteration of the channels is prohibited. Violators should be reported to law enforcement or public works officials.

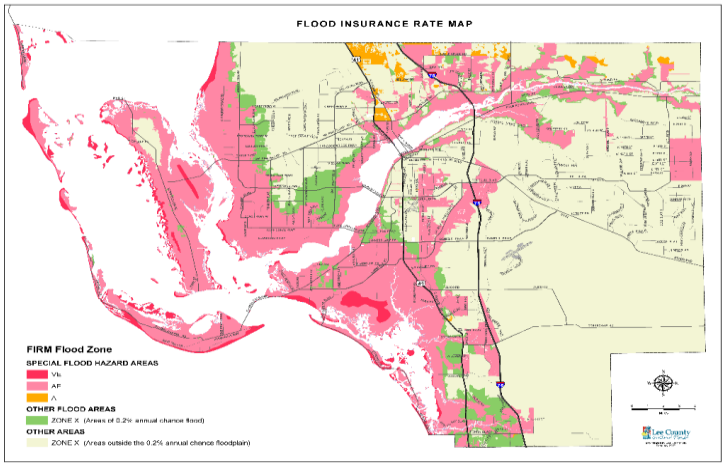
Further information on flood mitigation techniques, such as flood proofing and elevation can also be found at the website for the Federal Emergency Management Agency: **www.fema.gov/hazus/prevent-disaster-losses**.

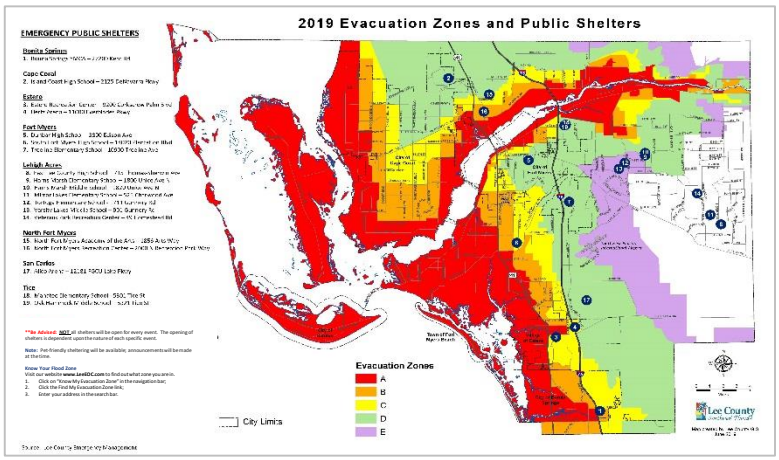
Maps

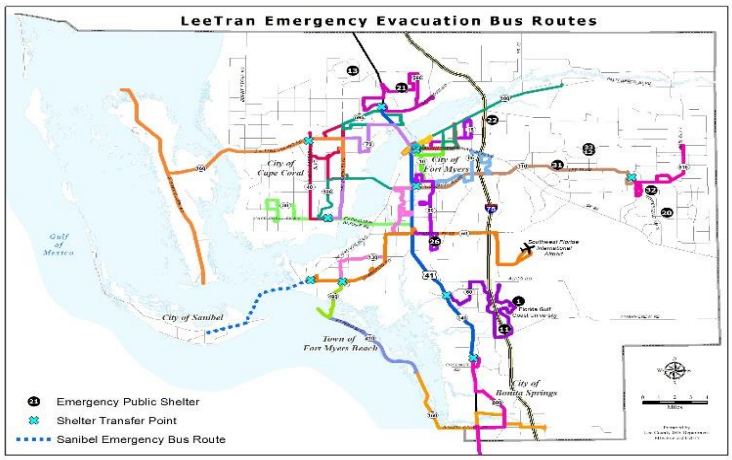
Maps are useful sources of information. A variety of maps can be found on the Lee County website, **www.leegov.com**.

Below is a sampling of maps.

- **Evacuation Zone maps** are used to indicate who needs to leave during a tropical storm or hurricane. Announcements will be made.
- **Flood Zone maps** used to determine flood insurance premium rates and building code requirements.
- **Public transportation map** for those who will need public transportation during an evacuation.







After the Storm

Take precautions after the storm has passed. Damage to your home can be extensive. Relief supplies may take several days to arrive. Try to remain calm during this potentially emotional time.

Keep these tips in mind:

Repair open holes in your roof.

Avoid downed wires and standing water.

FEMA

Register for FEMA Disaster Assistance as soon as it is made available.

Only call 911 for life-threatening situations

Have a valid form of identification if needed for re-entry.

Call utility companies to report hazards, such as broken gas or water mains, downed power lines, or overturned gas tanks.

Stay tuned to local media for re-entry information.

Turn off the main breaker to your house

Report suspicious contractors or unfairly high prices to authorities.

Photograph and take notes of all damages and make any necessary temporary repairs.

Be careful around wild & domestic animals. Even if you know an animal it may be frightened or injured & could be dangerous.

If it is necessary to drive, avoid weakened roads, bridges, or tree limbs that could collapse unexpectedly

Ask for a contractor's valid county contractor's license. Do not sign a contract if they are unlicensed or pay for services until the work is complete.

Disaster Recovery

Disaster recovery is about rebuilding, restoring and returning to everyday life. Response focuses on life safety, removing debris, returning people to their homes, rebuilding transportation, infrastructure, the environment, coastal and historical needs.

Recovery can be broken into three phases:

- Short term: Days
- Intermediate: Weeks to Months
- Long-Term: Months to Years

Depending on the disaster type & size, these phases will vary in length.

Need Assistance?

If you need help that is non-life threatening or have questions on where to get help to recover from a disaster, contact United Way.

Dial 211 or
call 239-433-7559
www.unitedwaylee.org

United Way

Health Tips After Storms

Storms can bring heavy rains that could increase the risk of diseases. Following are some tips to help you avoid becoming ill. For more information during an emergency event call the **Florida State Assistance Information Line (SAIL) at 1-800-342-3557**.

Find more information online at **lee.floridahealth.gov.**

FOOD

- **Food & Dirty Water:** Do not eat food that has come in contact with dirty water from floods or tidal surges.
- **Commercial Cans of Food: C**anned food that are bulging or opened should not be eaten. Remove labels from and disinfect unopened cans. Assume home-canned foods are unsafe.
- **Baby Formula:** Infants should only be fed ready-to-feed formula or prepare powdered/concentrated liquid formula with sterilized water. Only use sanitized bottles and nipples. Unused formula must be refrigerated. If breastfeeding, continue to do so.
- **Frozen or Refrigerated Foods:** If refrigerators or freezers have had no power since the storm, clean them out. Perishable foods are unsafe for eating.

MOSQUITOES

- Heavy rains & flooding events can lead to an increase in mosquitoes.
- **Dusk & Dawn:** Mosquitoes are most active during these times. Avoid being outdoors.
- **Clothing:** Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- **DEET:** Use repellants containing 30% DEET. Apply repellant directly on clothing for more protection. Follow manufacturers directions. Do not use on children less than 2 months old. Use mosquito netting or keep infants indoors.
- **Drainage:** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Clear stagnant water that has collected near your home.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- **Warning Signs:** Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, or fainting.
- **Cool Off:** Drink cool, non-alcoholic beverages. Take a shower, bath, or sponge bath. Wear lightweight clothing. Rest in an air-conditioned environment.
- **Heat Exhaustion:** Can lead to stroke. Severe symptoms include cool, moist skin, fast and weak pulse, fast and shallow breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if symptoms continue for more than an hour or if you have heart problems or high blood pressure.

WATER

- **Always Wash Your Hands:** Use soap and water that has been boiled or disinfected.
- **Boil Water Notice:** If a boil water notice is in effect for your area, take precautions if you have a private well. If you are unsure if your water is safe, drink commercially bottled water.
- **Boiling Water:** Maintain a rolling boil for one minute to remove bacteria.
- **Disinfecting Water**: Mix 8 drops of plain, unscented bleach per gallon of water and let stand for 30 minutes. It water is still cloudy, repeat process.
- **Infection & Floodwater:** Raw sewage may be present in floodwater. Keep open cuts and sores clean and apply antibiotic ointment after cleaning. See a doctor if the wound develops redness, swelling or drainage.
- **Children & Floodwater:** Children should not play in floodwater. If toys have been in floodwater disinfect them by using ¼ cup bleach in one gallon of clean water, let stand for at least 30 minutes and air dry.

Generators

When the power goes off, many residents turn to emergency generators to power freezers, refrigerators, lights, fans and other appliances. If you use a generator, extreme caution is required.

While convenient and useful, generators can create hazards for homeowners and electric utility workers. Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions.

Safety Tips

Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators emit deadly carbon monoxide.

Turn the generator on before plugging appliances to it. After the generator is running, turn your appliances & lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Generators are recommended for temporary use; prioritize your needs.

Do not connect a generator to a home electrical outlet or circuit breaker panel to avoid back feed. Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances to the outlets on the generator.

Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it. Do not store fuel indoors. Flammable liquids should be properly labeled in non-glass safety containers.

Keep children & pets away from portable generators. Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only if necessary when wet conditions exist. Protect the generator by operating it under an open structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

Carbon Monoxide Exposure

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison gas. It is a component of the exhaust from the generator engine. The symptoms of exposure are subtle, but deadly. Do not use generators, charcoal or gas grills indoors.

Inexpensive CO detectors, similar to smoke alarms, are readily available and recommended as an added safety precaution.

Call 911 or the Poison Information Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you think you have been poisoned. More information is available online - **floridapoisoncontrol.org.**

Mild Exposure

- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Blurred Vision

Medium Exposure

- Severe headache
- Drowsiness
- Confusion
- Rapid heart rate

Severe Exposure

- Unconsciousness
- Convulsions
- Cardiac or respiratory failure
- Death

Storm Debris Cleanup

To ensure that debris is collected in the most efficient, safe, and timely manner, we recommend you follow these simple guidelines.

- Local media will notify when collection will take place.
- Do not place trash, recycling or debris near low hanging objects, around mailboxes or utility equipment including power poles/lines, electric meters or fire hydrants.
- Small quantities should be prepared the same as your weekly collection, in containers or recyclable bags/bundles 50 lbs. or less.
- Large quantities of vegetative debris should be piled at the curb for mechanical collection.
- All white goods must be empty. Any containing food or other waste will not be collected. (See Priority 3 at right)
- Use your regular collection container or heavy duty plastic bags. Place in your normal location for weekly collection
- Do not mix materials.
- Separate collections for each material.
- Land clearing and landscape improvement activities are not eligible for collection.
- No collection of large quantities of yard debris on private roads or in gated communities unless included in a FEMA declaration.
- Businesses and owners of vacant lots are required to make their own arrangements for debris clean-up.

Priority **1**

Normal Household Garbage
- Bagged garbage
- Discarded food
- Packaging materials

Priority **2**

Normal Household Recyclables
- Newspapers
- Cardboard
- Plastic containers (#1 - #7)
- Glass
- Steel
- Aluminum

Yard Debris
- Shrubs
- Palm fronds
- Tree / grass trimmings
- Bushes
- Leaves
- Twigs/cut tree branches

Priority **3**

White Goods/Appliances
- Refrigerators
- Ranges
- Washing machines
- Dryers
- Water heaters
- Freezers
- Microwaves
- Air conditioners

Construction/Demolition Debris
- Lumber
- Glass
- Drywall
- Insulation
- Concrete block
- Plumbing

Recyclables
Bulk Items
Electronic Equipment
Tires

Roof Repairs

If you have had roof damage and are waiting for contractors, there are some steps you can take to remedy leaks.

On the Inside

- Buckets: Set up buckets under leaky areas to avoid interior puddling or flooding.

On the Outside

- Small holes: The smallest holes can be patched by covering them with roof cement.
- Plastic sheeting: This is the most temporary measure. Use roofing nails and 2x4 lumber to attach the plastic to the roof.
- Tarps: tarps are sturdier than plastic sheeting.
- Roofing paper: Known as tarpaper or roofing felt and can be found in the building materials section of home improvement stores. It is applied with roofing cement and a trowel.

Finding Contractor

- Find a reputable contractor through the National Roofing Contractor's Association. Information can be found online at **www.nrca.net**.

Safety Tips

- Roof shingles and tiles can be slippery be mindful as you walk on the roof.
- Be careful stepping on soft or weak spots in the roof to avoid falling through.
- Be aware of tree branches, power lines and unstable ladders.

Wildfires

Fires ensure continued diversity of wildlife and native vegetation. Many animals depend on fire to thin out dense woods and many native plants need fire as part of their lifecycle.

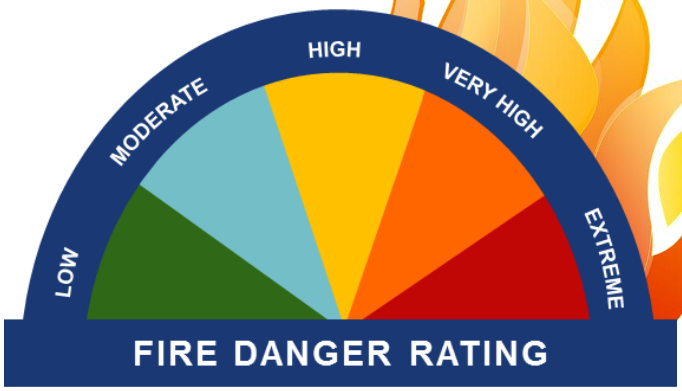
Take steps to lower your wildfire risks:

- Trim branches away from roofs and gutters
- Remove dead or overgrown vegetation from around homes, boats, and sheds.
- Plant less flammable, ornamental vegetation near structures.
- Use chunky mulch or gravel.
- Maintain a working irrigation system.
- Cover eaves & other openings with wire mesh no larger that 1/8" openings.
- Keep combustible items away from structures.
- Build homes with fire-resistant materials.
- Keep driveways clear and free of overhanging braches or overgrown plants.

When Wildfires Threaten the Community

- Be prepared to evacuate immediately if requested.
- Create an evacuation plan and share with family.
- Follow emergency personnel directions.
- Have important papers and items like medication readily available.
- Make a plan for your pets.

More wildfire information can be found on the Florida Forest Service website **www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service**



Thunderstorms & Lightning

Thunderstorms can produce several types of hazardous weather including hail, damaging winds, floods and tornadoes. However, lightning is the number one cause of weather related fatalities in Florida. Almost all lighting will occur within 10 miles of its parent thunderstorm. It can strike much farther than that.

The safest place during a thunderstorm is inside a large, enclosed structure. If no buildings are available, an enclosed vehicle, van or school bus makes a good alternative. If no cover is available, crouch low to the ground on the balls of your feet – do not lie down.

Lightning Alert System

Often striking with little or no warning, lightning is one of the leading weather-related causes of death and injuries

WeatherBug®

- Lee County Parks & Recreation has installed lightning alert systems at two dozen park locations.
- The alert system is a weather-monitoring tool.
- When the system detects lightning within 10 miles of a site, the air horns sound an uninterrupted 15-second blast and the strobe light will activate.
- Park patrons who hear the horn and/or see the light need to seek shelter immediately.
- When the system no longer detects a threat, three 5-second blasts from the horn will sound and the strobe light will stop working.
- No system is fool-proof. Park visitors should always assess weather conditions before going outside and always be prepared to take the appropriate action needed to ensure one's safety.

For more information on lightning safety, download the WeatherBug app for your iPhone or Android device.

WHAT TO AVOID

INDOORS				OUTDOORS			
Electrical appliances & outlets	Corded phones, desktop computers	Showering, taking baths, using sinks	Doors, windows & porches	Water, wet or metal objects	Standing in groups	Open or elevated areas	Tall trees, other tall objects

Wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder to go outside. For more information visit **www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov**

Tornadoes

In Florida, tornadoes are likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. from June through August. They can however occur at any time, often with no warning.

When conditions are right for a tornado, there are a few things you can do to protect yourself and loved ones.

- Tornado sirens are not common in Florida. Stay tuned to local weather or listen to your NOAA weather radio.
- Secure loose objects outdoors, or move them inside.
- Go to the innermost hallway on the lowest floor of your home or office or use a bathroom or closet. Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. Seek sturdy shelter immediately.
- If in open country, seek shelter in a ravine, ditch or culvert. Stay away from trees and protect your head.
- If you live in a mobile or manufactured home, seek other, sturdy shelter immediately.
- Do not leave shelter until you are sure danger has passed.

Tornado Alerts

Watch

Conditions are right for a tornado.
Caution - watch the sky.

Warning

Tornado has been sighted.
Danger – take cover.

Acts of Terrorism

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is intended to cause mass casualties, panic or the loss of critical resources to disrupt vital services or the economy. It may include violence or cyberattacks.

Acts of terrorism are more likely to occur at or near high-profile sites or places where large numbers of people gather—like government buildings, military facilities, utilities, bus or train stations, and major public events. Be alert to your surroundings, and the people around you.

How can I help?

Report anything that appears suspicious, or out of the ordinary, by calling 911 or your local FBI office. You can also report suspected terrorism or criminal activity to the FBI online (tips.fbi.gov). Describe specifically what you observed, including:

- **Who** or **what** you saw;
- **When** you saw it;
- **Where** it occurred; and
- **Why** it is suspicious.
- **How can I prepare?**

Preparing for acts of terrorism depends on the type of act being committed. You may need to evacuate an area, or stay where you are and shelter in place. Always know where emergency exits are located in buildings you frequent. Move, or leave, if you feel uncomfortable, or if something does not seem right. Notify the authorities of your concern – See something, say something.

When you travel:

Check the U.S. Department of State (**travel.state.gov**) and the Department of Homeland Security (**www.dhs.gov**) websites for any travel advisories, or procedure changes.

Keep your identification papers in a secure place at all times.

Cooperate with security officials.

Need to Know

- Pay attention to your surroundings, and those around you;
- Have a plan and be prepared to act; and
- If you see something, say something. Notify authorities (911 or FBI).

Become a Volunteer

Lee County Emergency Management relies on volunteers for a variety of disaster support roles. Training will be provided for all volunteer opportunities.

How you can be involved:

- Shelter Operations
- Pet Shelter Operations
- Points Of Distribution (POD) Operations
- Evacuation Support
- Non-Emergency Office Support
- Amateur Radio Operations

Contact our volunteer coordinator at 239-533-0601 for more information about our volunteer program.

To complete an application to become a volunteer, visit **www.leegov.com/emvolunteerapp**.

Students seeking volunteer hours for college credit are welcome too.

Persons with Disabilities

During emergencies, persons with disabilities may seek safety in general population shelters. Here are some general guidelines.

Interacting with Persons with Disabilities:

- Many times a disability is not obvious.
- Remember, a person with a disability is a person first. Ask before you help. Do not assume they need help because they have a disability.
- Be sensitive regarding personal space and physical contact. People consider their equipment a part of their person.
- Think before you speak. Speak to the person, not the companion or aide.
- Do not approach or touch a service animal without permission.

Contact Lee County's ADA Coordinator at 239-533-2111 if you have questions or need help.

Lee Board of County Commissioners

District 1
John Manning

District 2
Cecil Pendergrass

District 3
Larry Kiker
Chairman

District 4
Brian Hamman
Vice Chairman

District 5
Frank Mann

"Responding to and recovering from a disaster is a communitywide effort. We ask that you create a 'culture of preparedness' in your homes, neighborhoods and workplaces."

Vice Chair Brian Hamman

Lee County
Southwest Florida

Need more information? Have questions?

Lee County Emergency Management

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LEE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY