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# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



## *ARE YOU READY?*

*Presented for resident information by the Board of Directors and  
Association Manager of Punta Rassa Condominium Association*

*Jim Simantel, President – Gerold Dehm, Vice President  
Joe Faulhaber, Treasurer – Linda Lacy, Secretary  
Leslie Rosser, Director – Russ Crawford, Director  
Rick Prosser, Director – Jim Walker, Association Manager*

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

# IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY DURING A HURRICANE

Dear Residents,

For those of you that will be staying onsite during a hurricane, **you must inform the Punta Rassa office** by phone (239) 466-9148 or email [prca008@gmail.com](mailto:prca008@gmail.com) and give your building number, unit number, and cell phone number if you have one. After the danger has passed, we will check on you and the condition of your unit.

If there is a tidal surge that is sufficiently high to flood our generators, there will be no power at all and no water to the higher floors.

The elevators will be shut down and raised to the top floor to avoid damage and will not be turned on again until conditions permit.

If you decide to stay, fill your bath tub with water. It is important to keep your bathtub full of water so you will be able to use the water to flush your toilet. Make sure the tub will hold water. You may have to put a stopper in to keep it from draining. Please test your tub ahead of time.

Purchase plenty of drinking water – enough for at least 5 days. If you're going to use canned food products, make sure you have a manual can opener.

Remove everything from balconies and patios. Make sure all your windows and doors are closed tightly and your storm shutters are secure.

When it's safe to go outside, the charcoal grills will be available. Make sure you have a small quantity of charcoal, lighter fluid and matches or a long-handed lighter. The gas grills will be removed during the storm and reinstalled as quickly as possible.

During the “warning period” you might consider cooking food from your freezer so it would be available during power outages. Bring in a supply of dry ice from Publix or Winn-Dixie and purchase an ice chest. Have flashlights, extra batteries, and/or battery powered lanterns and radio on hand.

Make arrangements for your pet's litter if unable to go outside (pet pads, litter boxes, and plenty of plastic bags).

Working with commitment for you,  
James J. Walker, Association Manager  
(239) 222-6061



Tuesday, May 29, 2018



## YOU'VE DECIDED TO EVACUATE...

### Here's what to do:

- Secure your unit. Remove everything from your balconies.
- Securely close and lock windows and sliding glass doors. If you have shutters, close them.
- Place towels on all window and doorsills in case of water seepage.
- **Do not apply tape** to the window. It has been recommended that you place a towel between the door wall and back sill (back dam as it's referred to).
- Turn off your water. **Disconnect all** electrical items **except** your *refrigerator* at the switches in the breaker panel box. Set the refrigerator and freezer to their coldest settings.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a safe place. You might want to enclose them in watertight plastic bags and keep them with you if possible.
- Make sure your gas tank is full, windshield wipers are in good condition and air pressure is good in your tires.
- Purchase a cell phone charger that can be plugged into your vehicle.
- **Please make sure the Punta Rassa Condominium Association Administrative Office has your contact information and a key to your unit. We will make inspections after the storm and notify you of any damage.**

# EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

These are some of the items Lee County recommends you have in your emergency supply kit. You should modify this list to meet your needs and the needs of your family. Plan to have enough supplies on hand to get you through at least three (3) days without power.



- One (1) gallon drinking water per person per day (more for cooking and cleaning)
- Non-perishable ready-to-eat foods (canned, peanut butter, granola bars, etc.)
- Manual can opener and/or battery operated can opener
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications (at least a two (2) week supply)
- Analog phone (one that does not use batteries or electricity)
- Personal hygiene items (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, etc.)
- Pillows, blankets, towels, washcloths
- Pet food, water, medications, cage, treats, litter or clean-up items, vet (shot) records
- Cash (banks and ATM's may be without power), credit cards
- Important documents such as driver's license and/or passport, social security card, medical records, insurance policies (seal in plastic bag)
- First aid kit, bug spray, sunscreen, extra batteries
- NOAA weather radio or battery operated AM/FM radio
- Several sets of clean clothing
- Unscented bleach for disinfecting water
- Flashlights, battery operated fans, batteries, and rechargeable batteries
- Work or gardening gloves, sturdy shoes, hat

**Make sure your pet wears an ID tag with your name, address, phone number, and proof of inoculations. Carry a picture of your pet. You might want to ask your vet about microchip implants for your pet in case you get separated.**



The special Needs Program is available to all Lee County residents at no cost. It provides shelter from a Tropical Storm or Hurricane for those who live in a home and/or area that is not safe from storm surge or wind, and have no other safe place to go. It also provides transportation to a shelter for those residents who do not have a way to get there. You must register to receive these services by completing the Special Needs Program application.

Some things you should know about the program:

- You must register every year. Your application is good for one calendar year only.
- Not every shelter will open. Only those safe from storm surge and wind from each particular storm will open.
- Emergency Public Shelters are open to everyone and do not require pre-registration.
- Bring to the shelter things you need to survive, such as prescriptions, personal hygiene items, sleeping bag, cot, pillow, change of clothes, glasses, special dietary needs, books/magazines/cards or other things to help pass the time while sheltering.
- Food and water will be provided, but we suggest you bring some food items with you in case you do not like what is being served.
- Service animals are allowed in all shelters.
- You can bring your dog or cat to shelter with you at the Special Needs Shelters. They will be housed and sleep in a different area from you, but you will have access to them at any time.
- We stop processing applications when Lee County enters the five-day forecast cone, so submit your application early in the season.

What you need to know about the Special Needs Shelter:

- The Special Needs Shelter will be open for those with medical needs that require electricity, such as oxygen dependence, dialysis, ventilators, nebulizers, etc.
- You must pre-register for the Special Needs Shelter using the application.
- You must have a companion/caregiver accompany you during the time you shelter, as we have a limited number of staff working.
- You will receive a confirmation letter and instructions to advise that your name is on the registry, and what to expect if shelters are opening.

**You can call (239) 533-3640 to have Special Care Forms mailed to you.**

# LEE COUNTY PET SHELTER INFORMATION



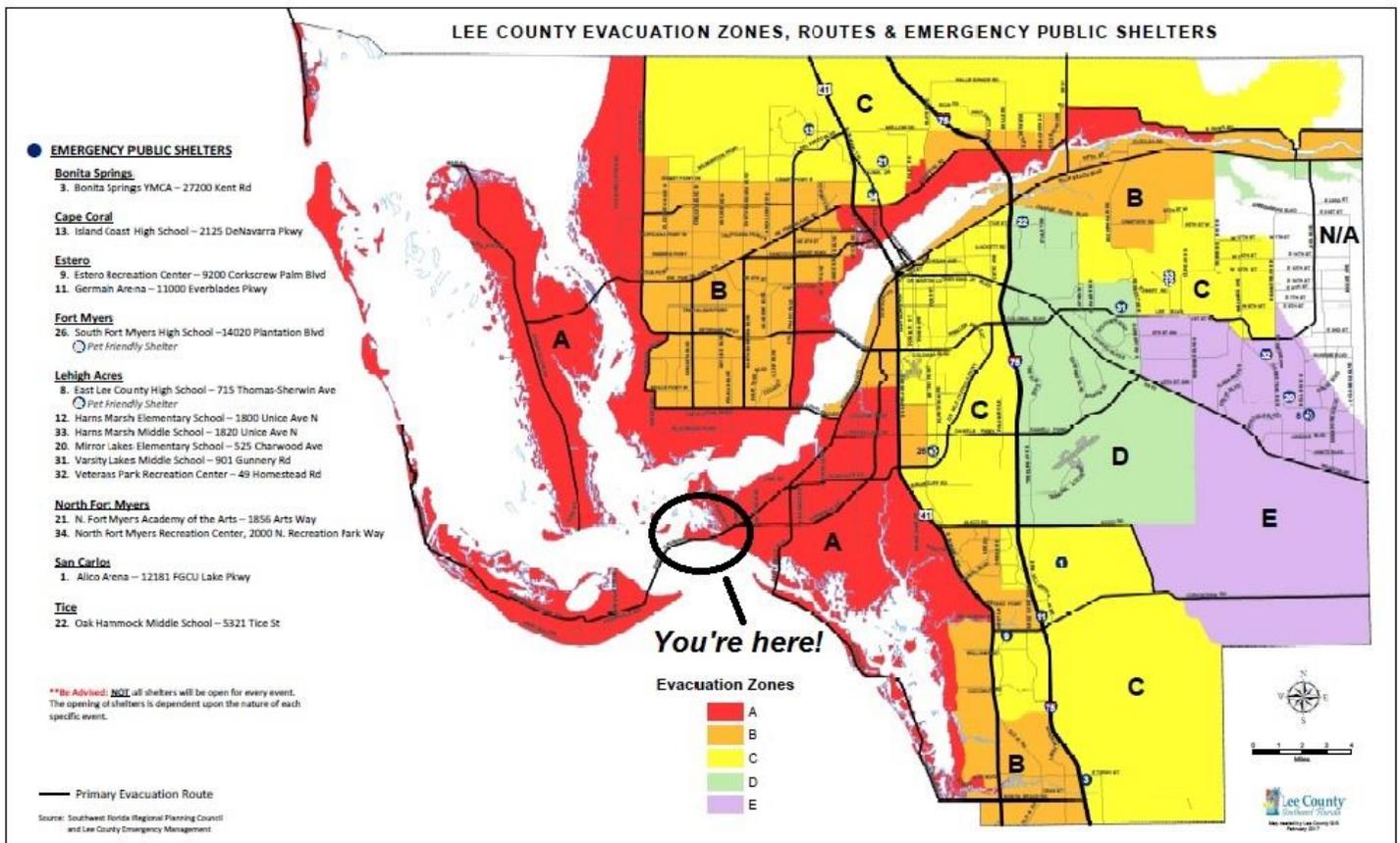
In a hurricane pets are subject to the same hazards as people and have many of the same needs. Remember, **NOT ALL** shelters are pet friendly and you might not be able to bring your pets to the shelter with you. You also may be away from home for a number of days. The best plan is to identify a safe location to evacuate to that allows pets, such as a friend's home or a pet friendly hotel.

- **La Quinta Inn Fort Myers Central**  
4850 S. Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33907  
(239) 275-3300
- **La Quinta Inn & Suites Fort Myers Airport**  
9521 Market Place Road, Fort Myers, FL 33912  
(239) 466-0012
- **Residence Inn by Marriott**  
2960 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 936-0110
- **Best Western Airport Inn**  
8955 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912  
(239) 561-7000
- **Days Inn Fort Myers Springs Resort**  
18051 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 267-7900
- **Quality Suites Fort Myers**  
13651 Indian Paint Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912  
(239) 768-0005

Lee County has one Pet Friendly Shelter at *South Fort Myers High School* which will shelter dogs and cats only. Lee County Animal Services manages this shelter. First come-first-serve. **Call (239) 533-7387 for more information.**

# PUBLIC SHELTERS

- **Florida Gulf Coast University Alico Arena**  
10501 FGCU Boulevard S.  
Fort Myers, FL 33965
- **Oak Hammock Middle School**  
5321 Tice Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33905
- **South Fort Myers High School - PET FRIENDLY**  
14020 Plantation Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33912
- **Germain Arena**  
11000 Everblades Parkway  
Estero, FL 33928





## SUPERMARKETS AND GAS STATIONS NEAR PUNTA RASSA

The following stores have backup generator power and will open for business as quickly as possible.

- **Publix Super Market at Sanibel Place**  
20321 Summerlin Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 454-0145
- **Costco Wholesale**  
7171 Cypress Lake Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
(239) 415-3806

The following gas stations have backup generator power and will be open for business as quickly as possible.

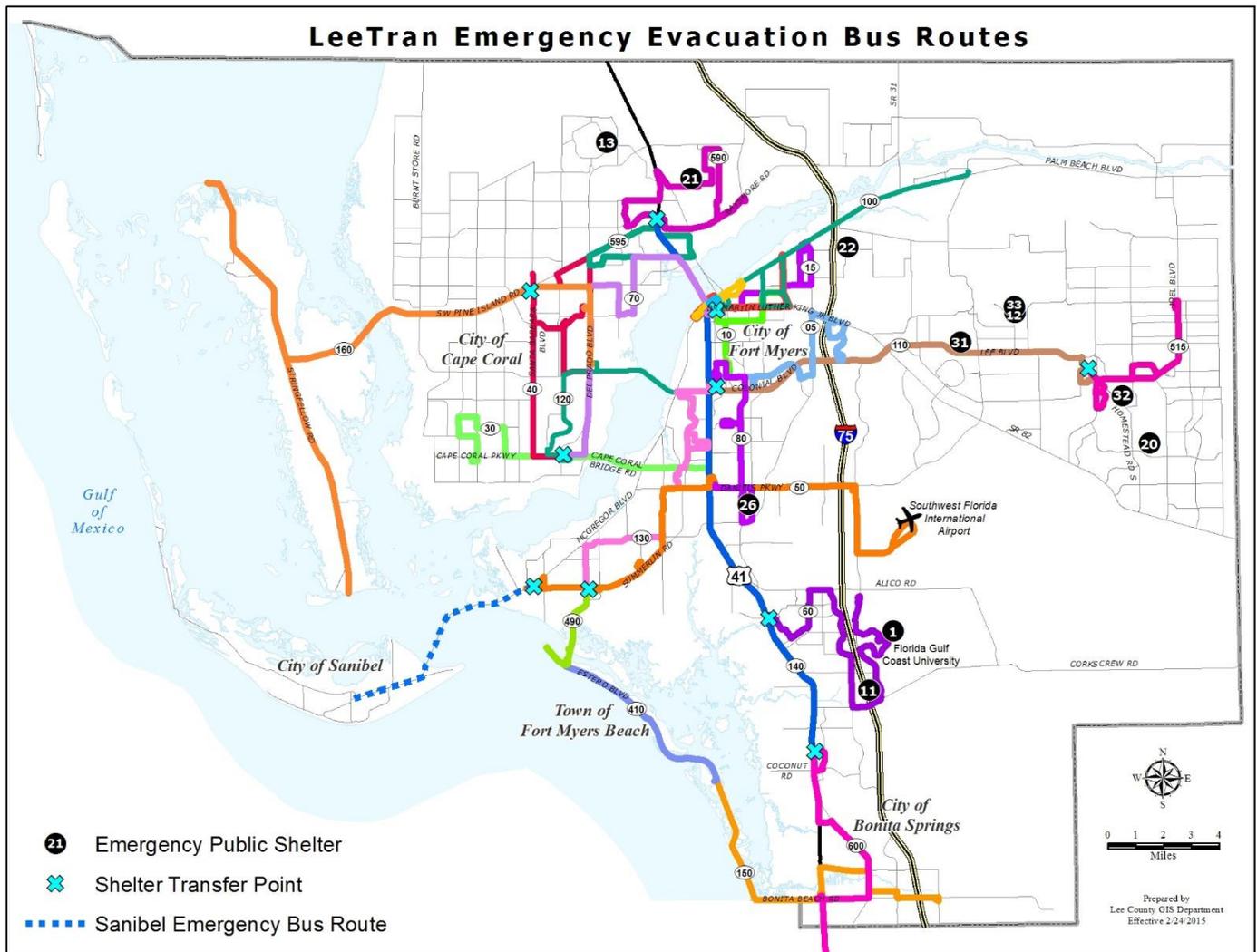
- **Shell**  
16769 McGregor Boulevard  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 466-3413
- **Circle K**  
20021 Summerlin Road  
Fort Myers, FL 33908  
(239) 454-1551
- **Costco Gas Station**  
7171 Cypress Lake Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
(239) 482-0117

# TRANSPORTATION



There are several modes of shelter transportation available during an evacuation. The Lee Tran buses will pick up people at the Hurricane Evacuation bus stops throughout the County and drop-off at the Emergency Public Shelters free of charge. If you need a ride to an emergency shelter but cannot get to the bus stop, you can request transportation by completing the Special Needs Application and requesting a ride.

If you make such a request, it will be evaluated and you will be assigned appropriate transportation based upon the information on your application. You will be notified that your transportation will arrive during a block of time. You must be ready to leave immediately, so make sure all your shelter items are ready. You are responsible for carrying all your belongings, so pack carefully and do not bring more items than you can manage.



# STORM TERMINOLOGY

- **Tropical Storm Watch:** Tropical storm conditions are possible in the watch area within 36 hours.
- **Tropical Storm Warning:** Tropical storm conditions are expected within 24 hours. Stay in touch with weather broadcasts.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions possible within 36 hours. Take necessary precautions to secure your apartment.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane conditions expected within 24 hours. Revise your hurricane plan and prepare to carry it out.

## HOW HURRICANES ARE CATEGORIZED:

**Category 1:** 74-95 mph wind; 5' storm surge; minimal damage

**Category 2:** 96-110 mph wind; 6-8' storm surge, extreme damage

**Category 3:** 111-130 mph wind; 9-12' storm surge; extreme damage

**Category 4:** 131-155 mph wind; 15-18' storm surge; severe damage

**Category 5:** Winds above 155 mph; over 18' storm surge, catastrophic damage



# WHAT ARE PROBLEMS WITH CURRENT HURRICANE PREDICTIONS?

There have been great strides forward in the science of forecasting hurricanes, but there is still a lot to do. One major problem is accuracy. The National Hurricane Center has been forecasting the paths of hurricanes since the early 1950's. They issue 120 hour, 96 hour, 72 hour, 48 hour, 24 hour, and 12 hour forecasts. The 120 hour and 96 hour forecasts were introduced in 2003. The error decreases as the time before landfall decreases. The error has also decreased over the years as models become more accurate 9NOAA, 2004. Despite becoming more accurate, the error is still relatively large.

<u>Days before Landfall</u>	<u>Error in Miles</u>
5	350
4	290
3	230
2	160
1	100

These errors have substantial effect on the damage done to a certain area. A difference of one hundred miles could determine whether or not people are forced to evacuate. These are large distances for errors in forecasting landfall.

Another major issue is trying to predict intensity. In some cases, the calculations are very straight forward and the hurricane strengthens according to a nice equation as it approaches land. Other time, there are unforeseen factors that greatly increase or decrease a hurricanes intensity. One of the most common causes of a sudden intensity increase in the Gulf of Mexico is the Loop Current, a stream of deep warm water that provides a lot of fuel to a hurricane. Instead of having a thin surface layer of warm water, the Loop Current has deep warm water, so when the hurricane churns the ocean, it only stirs up more warm water. Usually a hurricane stirs up the water, cooling the overall temperature or the ocean surface and weakening the storm. The Loop Current changes position, depth and strength over the years, so it can make predicting hurricanes really hard. A hurricane that is relatively small that hits the Loop Current can suddenly strengthen to a Category 4 or 5 storm which spells disaster.

Finally, there is the time component. Scientists simply cannot predict hurricanes early enough for cities to be completely prepared for it to make landfall. There is no certainty in the position of a hurricane until it is too late to respond. It will not be certain that a hurricane will hit a city until only hours before landfall, which leaves almost no time for people to secure their property and evacuate safely. Hurricane predictions in the future need to be more accurate earlier on in the forecasting process.

## **PLEASE NOTE!**



If we have a Category 5 Hurricane with an 18' surge, that water level could reach to the second story of all the Punta Rassa buildings. Unless you have Flood Insurance, you will be responsible for all your own personal belongings. The Association's Flood Insurance only applies to certain elements of the unit. If you'd like to get a quote from Punta Rassa's carrier, call the number below of you can contact any carrier of your choice.

- **Ameriflood**  
7800 Congress Avenue, Suite 204  
Boca Raton, FL 33487  
(800) 263-7435

In the event you have water damage other than from rising waters such as water intrusion from window problems, broken glass, etc., your normal home owner's policy will not cover that damage unless you specifically have a "wind" policy. Please check your policy.

Punta Rassa's current provider for water cleanup is:

- Fireservice Disaster Kleenup  
3120 Winkler Avenue, Suite 30  
Fort Myers, FL 33916  
(239) 936-1033

They provide 24 hour service for water, mold, smoke, etc. Or contact a vendor of your choice.

# THINK AHEAD

## STORM SURGE SAFETY ACTIONS

- Minimize the distance you must travel to reach a safe location; the further you drive the higher the likelihood of encountering traffic congestion and other problems on the roadways.
- Select the nearest possible evacuation destination, preferably within your local area, and map out your route. Do not get on the road without a planned route, or a place to go.
- Choose the home of the closest friend or relative outside a designated evacuation zone and discuss your plan with them before hurricane season.
- Expect traffic congestion and delays during evacuations. Expect and plan for significantly longer travel times than normal to reach your family's intended destination.
- If you do not have a cell phone plan, purchase a prepaid minute's cell phone so that you can contact loved ones. Be sure to have a car charger or battery operated charger.
- Stay tuned to local radio or TV stations and listen carefully for any advisors or specific instructions from local officials. Monitor your NOAA Weather Radio.