

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County orders mandatory evacuations for Evacuation Zones A and B, opens some shelters in advance of Hurricane Milton

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 7, 2024 – Lee County is issuing mandatory evacuation orders for Evacuation Zones A and B in advance of Hurricane Milton’s approach, and the county will open some of its shelters for evacuees who do not have other locations to stay.

A map is available at www.leegov.com/storm.

People who live in mobile homes and manufactured homes are also part of the evacuation order. Shelters will open at 3 p.m. today, Monday, Oct. 7, at the following locations. Only the listed shelters are opening at this time. All shelters are pet-friendly; pets must be on leashes or in kennels:

- Dunbar High School

3800 Edison Ave.,

Fort Myers, FL 33916

- Estero Recreation Center

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd,

Estero, FL 33928

- Island Coast High School

2125 DeNavarra Parkway

Cape Coral, FL 33909

People who live in the Evacuation Zones A and B need to be in a safe place by Tuesday evening, Oct. 8. About 416,000 residents live in those evacuation zones.

Lee County officials provided evacuation and shelter updates at noon from the Emergency Operations Center. Residents are encouraged to watch the entire update. Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9OfdODDFvY

Additional shelters available to the community will be announced soon. Residents are encouraged to make more comfortable arrangements by staying with a friend or family member outside of the evacuation zones.

Transportation is available to shelters. People can go to any LeeTran stop and advise the driver that they need to go to an open shelter. They will be taken to a transfer center and then to a shelter. LeeTran suspended fares at noon today.

Residents with questions can call the Emergency Information Hotline at 2-1-1, or 239-433-3900.

Tolls on Lee County bridges – Cape Coral Parkway, Midpoint Bridge and the Sanibel Causeway – have been suspended.

Lee County asks that residents:

- Obey evacuation notices.
- Pack a go-bag with family and pet needs.
- Bring their own personal items and supplies if going to a shelter.
- Report blocked ditches, swales and canals.
- Know that where it rains, it can flood. Even if you are not in a flood zone, you could still be prone to flooding due to local drainage issues and existing saturated areas.
- Understand that even if you are not evacuated or in an evacuation zone, flooding can still occur. Be prepared for flood inundation.
- Be sure you are signed up for AlertLee. The link is at www.leegov.com/storm.

Residents throughout Lee County are to not place any additional garbage, recycling or yard waste to the curb. Tuesday through Thursday, Solid Waste collection services will be suspended countywide. Announcements about Friday collections will be made Thursday.

Non-emergency Lee County operations closed at noon Monday. Also Monday, the Lee County Emergency Operations Center moved to a full activation.

Residents are asked to monitor local media and meteorologists' reports and to check www.leegov.com/storm for Hurricane Milton updates. Follow @Lee County Government on Facebook, 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 three-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 three-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.

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 and ID tags. 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 medicine your pet needs. You can find out more about preparation at leegov.com/storm.