



Dear Manatee County Resident:

Hurricane Season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through November 30<sup>th</sup>. You may need to evacuate your home from a pending hurricane if you are medically power dependent, live in an evacuation zone or in a mobile/manufactured home. Residents are encouraged to use public sheltering **only** if no other options exist. Options may include staying with a friend, relative or at a hotel that is not in an evacuation zone. It is important to realize that shelter life is very basic and can be difficult. Remember, using these shelters should be your last resort.

Should you need evacuation transportation or require sheltering assistance, you must preregister. The enclosed form is required to register for sheltering and/or transportation to a general population shelter, special needs shelter, hospital or nursing home. Each year you will receive a form approximately 60 days prior to your birthday. You must update and return this form to maintain your registration. Please complete and return the enclosed form to: Manatee County Emergency Management, PO Box 1000, Bradenton, Florida 34206-1000.

During an actual evacuation, the Special Needs Operators will call to confirm your current medical and transportation information. The Special Needs Medical Committee will evaluate your application to determine if you need to go to the Special Needs Shelter or a General Population Shelter. Be sure your caregiver is with you at the shelter. Please be aware that if you mark "ambulance" as your transportation source on the enclosed form, you will be transported **ONLY** to a hospital or nursing home. You need to check with those facilities to see if you will be charged for their medical services. General population shelters, managed by American Red Cross, are located in Manatee County Schools. Contact your local American Red Cross at 941-792-8686 for information on shelters.

The attached checklist will assist you in your evacuation preparation. If you require a special diet, you will need to bring nonperishable stable foods. As a last resort only, dogs and cats will be allowed in the designated pet area of the Special Needs Shelter.

Please call 941-749-3500 x 7828 if you have any questions. For specific medical questions, please call 941-748-0747 ext. 1303 or ext. 1450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Hermey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Don Hermey, Chief  
Emergency Management

## **EVACUATION CHECKLIST FOR SPECIAL NEEDS EVACUEES**

Listed below are actions you should take BEFORE evacuation. You and your caregiver MUST be ready before your county evacuation transportation vehicle arrives. Special Needs evacuations need to be completed prior to road congestion. Even if the sun is shining, the storm is on its way! Please remember you are one of many registered citizens who will need our assistance. Manatee County Emergency Management will call to give you an estimated time of your transportation pick-up.

Here are some things you should do before you are picked up:

### **DO NOW:**

1. Make plans for your pets to be taken care of by your veterinarian, family or friend. Only as a last resort, dogs and cats will be allowed in the designated pet area of the Special Needs Shelter.

### **WHEN EVACUATING:**

2. Pack a bag and be ready to go with:
  - Medications for 3 weeks, list of medications, & name of doctor(s)
  - Medical orders including “Do Not Resuscitate” order, if applicable
  - Your walker, wheel chair and other medical equipment
  - Oxygen Concentrator (if on oxygen), bring all equipment. Emergency oxygen will be provided only at the Special Needs Shelter
  - Clean clothes for three days
  - Extra eye glasses
  - Blankets and pillows
  - Personal hygiene items
  - House keys and car keys
  - Personal phone book or list of important numbers
  - Important papers, including identification, sealed in zip-lock bags
  - Folding chair, lawn chair or cot
  - Reading material
  - Non-perishable snack items while shelters become fully operational
  - Non-perishable food items if you require a special diet
3. Call caretaker and family members including those out of state to inform them of your evacuation plans.
4. It is important to turn off electricity, water and gas if possible.
5. Please have all pets evacuated before your evacuation transportation arrives. If necessary, the emergency workers will try to assist you with your pets.

### **WHEN THE STORM IS APPROACHING:**

6. Take care of all medical needs such as dialysis when you hear a storm is approaching.

**If you have any questions, please call Manatee County Emergency Management (941)749-3500 x 7828**

## **PET SHELTER**

Pet sheltering requirements and rules are important during disaster situations. Your cooperation in making a pet friendly shelter environment enjoyable is appreciated.

1. Pet(s) must arrive with a carrier or cage. Cages will not be available on site.
2. Pet(s) must remain in carrier (except at scheduled exercise times).
3. Owners must provide pet food and other pet supplies as needed.
4. Owners must provide certification that pet(s) are current with rabies vaccination.
5. Owners will not permit other shelter occupants to handle or approach pet(s).
6. Owners are responsible for the care, feeding and handling of their own pet(s).

### **Pet survival kit for Pet Friendly Shelters:**

- Proper ID collar and rabies license tag
- Carrier or cage
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Food supply to last about three days
- Special care instructions
- Newspapers/plastic bags for waste disposal
- Toys and comfort items
- Muzzles, if necessary
- First aid supplies
- Manual can opener
- Proper ID on all belongings