

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

Collier County Emergency Management
8075 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples, FL 34113
Phone: 239.252.3608

Welcome to the Special Needs Program registry! Life safety is number 1 in our book and we need you to help us exceed this expectation! This registry is not a shelter registration form. The Collier County shelter is considered a *shelter of last resort*. Residents should exhaust every effort to make alternative arrangements with a health agency, care facility, friends, or family for shelter needs during an emergency. Due to the high volume of residents seeking shelter, conditions are stressful, loud, crowded and may be uncomfortable for patients.

Program Guidelines

Collier County Emergency Management in collaboration with the Department of Health-Collier County maintains a Special Needs Registry. This is not a shelter registration form. In the event of a disaster, Collier County along with the Collier County Health Department will strive to provide special medical sheltering and/or transportation to a special needs shelter on a critical priority medical basis. Registering with the Special Needs Program automatically enrolls you in **ALERT Collier** for emergency communications.

If you prefer to submit your registration on-line, please visit CollierEM.org

Registration Criteria

1. You have a medical or physical need that may require medical assistance during an evacuation and sheltering situation but you do not require transportation to the shelter.
2. You have a medical or physical need that may require medical assistance during an evacuation and sheltering situation and do require transportation to the shelter.
3. If you are age 60 or above and have no medical needs but require transportation to a general population shelter during an evacuation and sheltering situation.

Due to limited shelter space and mass care medical teams, it is strongly suggested that you pursue personal evacuation plans with family, friends, and neighbors. If you plan to evacuate to a special needs shelter, you must have a caregiver accompany you. For assistance in developing a personal disaster plan, visit FLGetAPlan.org

Definitions

People with Special Needs – Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care (National Response Framework, FEMA 2013.)

Special Needs Shelter - Special Needs shelters are designed to care for people with minor medical or nursing needs as defined in Persons with Special Needs (PSN). The professional care available at the special needs shelter depends upon the number and type of nursing and medical volunteers.

General Population Shelter – General population shelters will accept anyone who is self-sufficient. People that do not require assistance in performing activities of daily living can utilize a general shelter.

The information provided annually on the registration will remain confidential. It will be given to first response agencies (fire, police, health, etc.) at the time of an emergency and only to those who are directly involved with your well-being. This

form also authorizes these same emergency response agencies to enter onto your property during post-disaster search and recovery activities. It is important that the information you provide be accurate and up to date.

People with Special Needs *(General Criteria)*

- Visually Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Use of Wheelchair / Adaptive Equipment
- Elderly with Physical or Emotional Needs
- Respiratory Problems - Acute or Chronic
- Recent Discharge from the Hospital or Recent Surgery
- Oxygen Dependent
- Recent Cataract Surgery
- Cardiac Problems
- Seizures
- Diabetic
- Tracheostomy
- Gastrostomy Feeding
- Pregnant Women – 3rd Trimester Only (No High Risk Pregnancies)
- Contagious Diseases
- Urinary Catheter
- Immune System Condition
- Wound Care
- Colostomy
- Physical Handicaps
- Emotionally or Socially Dependent Upon Others for Independent Living
- Mental, Cognitive, Impairment or Sensory Deficit

Persons requiring skilled nursing care, life support, etc. should find alternative locations to shelter and discuss evacuations and sheltering needs with their doctor and health care agency prior to disasters. Referral to an alternate location may be necessary. If your doctor has determined that you must be evacuated to a hospital or other skilled nursing facility, please work with them in advanced to make these critical plans.

It is important that those needing transportation or special needs care register with Collier County Emergency Management as soon as the need becomes apparent. Do not wait until it's too late! If a wildfire pops up we want to be able to contact you ASAP for support or welfare check.

Instructions for Completing the Registration

Please complete all sections of the form as completely as possible. A telephone number is required. Emergency Management officials must be able to contact you if it becomes necessary to evacuate your neighborhood. If you do not have a telephone, please provide a friend or local relative's name & phone number so that a message can be left for you. Please remember to include the area code.

Sign and date the form. The form must be signed by either the registrant, or authorized caregiver for the registrant.

Preparation Guidelines

Special Needs Shelter Location: Palmetto Ridge High School, 1655 Victory Lane Rd Naples, FL 34120

Persons requiring medical/nursing assistance and or transportation will be sheltered at this location. Shelter opening times are broadcast on government TV, local radio, and TV stations. If providing your own transportation, please do not report to the shelter prior to the announced opening time. If you can stay in a general shelter, please opt for that as this shelter is very limited in space.

Evacuation

Mobile homes, RV's, and some manufactured home residents must evacuate for all hurricanes and may be evacuated for certain tropical storms. It is unsafe to remain in certain structures, as they may not be designed to withstand high winds. Single family homes, condos and apartments may not be evacuated for all types of hurricanes / tropical storms. Please monitor Collier Government TV as well as local radio and TV stations for evacuation information. Due to the time required and limited resources to safely evacuate the special needs population, the evacuation process is conducted well in advance of any expected hazardous weather conditions. You must be ready to evacuate when told to do so by emergency officials.

If it appears that a disaster may affect Collier County, every attempt will be made to contact those persons currently registered via telephone. This is to alert you to the situation and to advise that an evacuation *may* be necessary. Ideally, the attempt to contact those registered will be made 24-36 hours prior to the arrival of the disaster and should allow ample time for you to complete your preparations.

Those persons currently registered who requested transportation would be notified of a time frame for the bus to arrive. Example: Pick-ups will start at ____ and should be completed by _____. If the bus has not arrived by the expected completion time CALL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT 239-252-8444. BUSES MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO TRAFFIC AND WEATHER CONDITIONS.

What to Bring to the Shelter

At the beginning of hurricane season, (June 1st - Nov. 30th) gather the following items. Keep these items in a place where you can get to them quickly. Please label your items, and make them as easily transportable as possible by using containers, bags, luggage, or other similar items.

Important Paperwork

- A list of phone numbers of family or friends to notify if you evacuate.
- Medicare, Medicaid, or health insurance cards (make copies).
- DNR paperwork or living will; The DNR must be the original form. Bring it with you to the shelter.
- Write down a plan for housing after the storm in case you are unable to return to your home due to damage.
- Copies of homeowner's policy, insurance policies for vehicles.
- List of names, addresses, and phone numbers of doctors and pharmacies.

Medications

- Bring at least a fourteen (14) day supply of all prescription and non-prescription medications that you use. A list of all medications & dosage schedules, dialysis supplies, and any items needed to administer the medications (syringes, alcohol preps, etc.). Bring original prescription bottles even if you have your pills in a daily dosage container.
- If you use an oxygen concentrator, bring it with you to the shelter. Concentrators can be used as long electrical power is available.
- Bring additional portable oxygen cylinders (size D or E) with a regulator and all necessary tubing. Put a label with your name on your oxygen cart.
- All Liquid oxygen users- you must bring extra HELIOS / liquid oxygen cylinders with you to use when you leave the shelter. The shelter cannot refill your cylinders.

Drinking Water

- Bring at least two gallons of drinking water per day. The small individual size bottles are a lot easier for many people.

Food

- 5-day supply of non-perishable foods or snacks and a hand or battery operated can / bottle opener. There will be limited meals provided. Special dietary foods will not be available.

Bed & Bedding

- Be sure to bring pillows and blankets, a folding cot/sleeping mat. Caregivers will also need to bring bedding items, and cot sleeping mat or folding chair. **LABEL** your belongings with your name & address.

Personal Hygiene Items

- Towel, Washcloth, Soap, Shampoo
- Over-the-Counter medications
- Deodorant, Bandages/Dressings
- Denture Cleaner, Toothbrush & Paste
Comb / Brush
- Adult Diapers, Sanitary Supplies, Bed
Pan/Urinal (if needed)

Other Items

- Wheelchair and/or Walker
- Hearing Aids & Batteries
- Prosthetic Devices
- Nebulizer Equipment
- Cell Phone/Chargers
- Flashlight/Radio/Spare Batteries
- Extra Change of Clothes
- Books/Games/Hobbies
- Sunscreen & Mosquito Spray
- Small Cooler & Ice Pack

Animals

Depending on the emergency, certain shelters will be pet friendly. Service animals are allowed in the shelters. If you do have a service animal you are required to bring to the shelter: food, water, feeding dishes, extra leash, vaccination records, and waste bags. If you have a pet please make advanced arrangements as space is limited.

Have the following items on hand for your pet sheltering plan:

- Current Vaccination Records
- Food & Water for 14 Days
- Feeding Dishes/Bedding
- Pet Carrier Label w/ name, address, and phone number.

If necessary, the County's Domestic Animal Services may be able to shelter pets for those persons with the Special Needs Program if you cannot make other arrangements. Please register with the Department of Animal Services by calling 239-252-7387, shelter capacity is limited.

Disaster Information

During times of emergency, current updates and advisories from Collier County's Emergency Operations center will be broadcast on:

- Cable TV Channels
- Channel 97 (Collier Gov)
- Local TV Media Stations
- NOAA Weather Radio 162.525
- WSGL Radio – 104.7 FM
- WGPU Radio – 90.1 FM

Important Phone Numbers

Collier Info Center Hotline: 239-252-8444 **or** 311
 Sheriff Non-Emergency: 239-252-9300
 American Red Cross: 239-596-6868

Department of Health-Collier County:
 239-252-8200
 Salvation Army: 239-775-9447