

STAYING INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY

During a hurricane, staying advised of weather reports and information from the Lake County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is essential for your family's safety.

If emergency personnel recommend that you evacuate your home because of an oncoming hurricane, you should follow their instructions. To learn of important notices, monitor radio and television reports. Listed below are some of the links the public has to emergency information.

Telephone

The Lake County Citizens Information Line (352-253-9999) is typically staffed 24 hours a day during a hurricane to provide residents with up-to-date emergency information.

Web

The online portal for Lake County hurricane-preparedness information is www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: hurricane. During an emergency, this Web site is updated frequently to provide residents with important information. The Web site also features up-to-date weather information from weather-reporting stations strategically located throughout the County.

Radio

WLBE 790 AM broadcasts a remote feed from the Lake County EOC.

WVLG 640 AM and WKIQ 1240 AM broadcast pertinent information to many Lake County residents.

Z88.3 FM is the local entry point for Emergency Alert Stations (EAS).

Television

Government access stations Bright House channel 199; Florida Cable channel 4. Lake-Sumter Community College Television (Comcast cable channel 13) and LakeFront TV (Comcast cable channel 22).

Regular updates are also typically available on local television stations: NBC affiliate WESH-TV channel 2; CBS affiliate WKMG-TV channel 6; ABC affiliate WFTV-TV channel 9; FOX35 channel 35; Central Florida News 13 (Bright House Network cable only).

Newspaper

Daily newspapers that provide Lake County emergency information include the Lake Sentinel, The Daily Commercial, The Villages Daily Sun and Ocala Star-Banner.

STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

LAKE COUNTY/FLORIDA Emergency Management

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM

352-343-9420



LAKE COUNTY
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: 352-343-9420

Fax: 352-343-9728

Email: disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov or
alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov

Web: www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword: emergency

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are special needs?

According to House Bill 7121 passed during the 2006 State Legislature, special needs is defined as “persons who would need assistance during evacuations and sheltering because of physical, mental, cognitive impairment, or sensory disabilities.” The bill further states: “Each local emergency management agency in the state shall maintain a registry of persons with special needs located within the jurisdiction of the local agency.”

Why should special needs individuals register?

It is important that individuals with special needs register with the Lake County Emergency Management Division. During a disaster such as a hurricane, Emergency Management officials need to be aware of individuals with special needs to plan accordingly and have the ability to check on their condition.

How do I register for special needs?

To receive a special needs application, call the Emergency Management office at 352-343-9420. Mail the completed application to Lake County Emergency Management, 425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, FL 32778. A committee reviews each application and makes a determination of the applicant’s special needs category.

Category I — If the applicant chooses not to find alternative sheltering options, space is arranged for the applicant and caregiver at one of the County’s special needs shelters.

Category II — Applicants should find alternative sheltering locations in the event of an emergency as their particular medical condition requires more complex care than can be provided in the County’s special needs shelters.

Category III — Applicants are registrants in the County’s system. This alerts emergency management to registrants’ conditions and allows officials to check on them after a disaster. The applicant can choose to find alternative sheltering or stay in one of the County’s public shelters.

How will I know if I meet the requirements for special needs?

The Emergency Management office will mail out a letter to all applicants of the program based on their medical needs. If at any time changes occur to your health or if you happen to change residence or contact numbers, please call the Emergency Management office at 352-343-9420 to make appropriate changes to your special needs information. In the spring of each year, the Emergency Management office mails letters to special needs registrants asking for them to update their special needs information.

When should special needs individuals shelter at a County facility?

If a resident with special needs lives in a manufactured home and has not made evacuation plans with family members or friends, sheltering at a County facility is recommended. Due to the lack of comfort at a County facility, special needs residents are encouraged to seek shelter at a site-built home of family or friend.

When will Emergency Management officials contact me?

After successfully completing the special needs registration process, you will be contacted in the event of an emergency. A prerecorded message will advise you to prepare and activate your family disaster plan. If you have not made personal evacuation measures or have not secured an alternate sheltering location with a family member or friend, sheltering at in a County facility is a temporary safe haven. For those who need transportation, a number will be provided to call.

Can I bring my pet to a County special needs shelter?

All of Lake County’s special needs shelters accept pets. Pets must be brought in a carrier that is marked with the owner’s name, address and two phone numbers. Owners must have documentation of up-to-date rabies vaccinations for their pets. Owners are responsible for taking care of their pets. It is recommended pet owners bring minimal pet supplies, such as food and water, to a County special needs shelter.

What will the accommodations be like at the County special needs shelter?

While Lake County’s special needs shelters are high on safety, residents may tend to find the comfort level more accommodating in a site-built home of a family member or friend. Special needs shelters do not have the proper facilities for special dietary considerations nor do they have a surplus of nurses on duty. All special needs residents sheltering at a County facility are required to be accompanied with their primary caregiver.

CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- Plan for your pets. If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.

WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

Local SAME* code

County	SAME Code
Lake	012069
Marion	012083
Orange	012095
Osceola	012097

**Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code
Polk	012105
Seminole	012117
Sumter	012119
Volusia	012127

Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County’s public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register multiple cellular phone numbers and email addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov, keyword search “AlertLake.”