

Lee County equipment and personnel are being positioned now to quickly respond to any Hurricane Irma damage after the storm passes, including:

- DOT crews to replace damaged traffic signals and signs and clear road obstructions.
- Utility crews to maintain and, if necessary restore, functions of water and wastewater treatment plants.
- Solid waste crews at the Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham.

As noted in a previous release, waste and recycling collections will be suspended following collections on Friday and will resume when it is safe to do so. Residents are reminded to bring all items inside, including bins and lids, yard waste and other items so that they don't become a hazard in high winds.

As the storm approaches and more detailed information becomes available from the National Hurricane Center, decisions are expected later today regarding shelter openings and evacuations. The special needs shelter for registered individuals is expected to open later today.

Residents in low-lying and other vulnerable areas are urged to seek safer locations with friends and family or hotels and motels when possible.

Residents who plan to leave their homes are encouraged to take their pets and necessary supplies with them. Remember to bring:

- Impact resistant carriers
- Food and water for several weeks along with food bowls and a can opener
- Waste disposal materials, such as scoopers and plastic bags
- Vaccination records
- Bedding and toys

Residents are urged to finish preparing their property for the storm and complete any errands while the weather remains mild.

Driving can become hazardous once sustained winds reach 40 mph and motorists should remain off the road at that time.

Boat owners should also take steps now to secure their vessels and be aware of the limitations of their anchor or mooring locations.

For more preparation information, please see <https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/mediaresources>

Also, the United Way 211 Help Line is available to answer questions and connect you with resources that may help. To access, dial 211 or (239) 433-3900.