

LEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY EVACUATION BUS ROUTE FOR PINE ISLAND AND MATLACHA

Pine Island, Fla.- Lee County Emergency Management announces the addition of an emergency evacuation bus route off of Pine Island and Matlacha during periods of general evacuations. Emergency management representatives will be on hand to discuss the evacuation bus routes and answer other hurricane preparedness related questions at the Pine Island Cares event to be held at the Beacon of H.O.P.E. Thrift Store 5465 Pine Island Road tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Effective during this 2009 Hurricane Season, Lee County Emergency Management and LeeTran, have established an evacuation bus route for persons on Pine Island and Matlacha. Persons who do not have the means to self-evacuate to an emergency public shelter when threatened by a hurricane may use this free service.

The implementation of this plan will be announced by Emergency Management through local media outlets including the EOC website (www.LeeEOC.com) and on twitter (www.twitter.com/LeeEOC). Persons needing transportation to an emergency public shelter may access free transportation at the following locations:

- Intersection of Raymary Street at Stringfellow, 7573 Raymary Street, Bokeelia, FL 33922
- Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church, 12175 Stringfellow Rd., Bokeelia, FL 33992
- Winn-Dixie Parking Lot at 9864 Stringfellow Rd., St. James City, FL 33956
- Flamingo Bay Resident's Assoc. Parking lot, located at 4732 Curlew Drive, St. James City, FL 33956
- VFW Building Parking lot at 8150 Stringfellow Road, St. James City, FL 33922
- First Baptist Church of St. James City, FL 4317 8th Ave., St. James City, FL 33956

It is very important to understand that persons with sufficient means should self-evacuate. Persons using any Lee County emergency evacuation bus route must comply with the following:

- Vehicles may NOT be left at the pick up site; they are subject to damage and/or towing at the owners expense. Persons with vehicles should self-evacuate. Neither Lee County, the agencies or agents of Lee County or the Property Owner are liable for damage to vehicles left at the pick up points.

- Persons using the emergency evacuation bus routes are limited to what they can carry in two hands when boarding the bus. Space is limited.
- Buses will go ONLY to the shelter determined most suitable by Emergency Management. The County will make every effort to provide English-Spanish translators at the designated shelter to assist evacuees.
- Pets are NOT allowed on the buses. DO NOT leave your pet unattended during an evacuation. Pet owners should make advanced plans for the proper care of their pets.
- Emergency Public Shelters do not have cots or bedding. Evacuees must bring their own bedding and personal items if desired.
- Return transportation will be provided from the emergency public shelter back to the original pick up points. Evacuees should bring to the shelter and to download a Hurricane Plan template for your family.

See the County-published All-Hazards Guide for information on things or www.LeeEOC.com evacuees should bring to the shelter and to download a Hurricane Plan template for your family.