

How do I know if I am eligible to go to a Special Needs Shelter?

Special Needs Shelter eligibility is defined as follows;

- Persons dependent upon health professional to administer injectable medication.
- Person requiring daily or more frequent dressing changes by a health care professional.
- Persons needing assistance by a health care professional with ostomy management, continuous peritoneal dialysis, or indwelling catheters of any kind.
- Person whose activities of daily living are restricted by immobility that their basic medical needs must be met by others.
- Persons who require daily assessment of unstable medical condition by professional nursing personnel, i.e., diabetes, cardiac, cystic fibrosis.
- Terminally ill patients who in need of professional assistance for administering heavy doses of medication.
- Those dependent on oxygen therapy.
- Bedridden and require custodial care upon advise of personal physician.
- Any resident whose life depends upon electric equipment within his or her residence. Excluding electric wheel chair.

Items to bring to a shelter

A Public and Special Needs Shelter will provide you with shelter. Each individual must bring other items needed for minimal comfort. Some items may include:

- Cots, pillows, blankets, linens. Cots are provided for Special needs clients **ONLY** at the Special Needs Shelter. **Caregivers will have to provide their own cot or equivalent.**
- 3-7 day supply of non-perishable food for individual preference or dietary needs also 1gal of water per person per day.
- Medications in prescription bottles, medical supplies, medical equipment i.e oxygen concentrators, portable oxygen bottles.
- Personal items; important papers, glasses, hygiene articles, clothing, flashlight, quiet games i.e cards, book
- **Only service animals are permitted in shelters.**
- **Pets are NOT permitted in shelters.**

St. Lucie County Public Safety

15305 W. Midway Rd.
Fort Pierce, FL 34945
Phone: 772-462-8100
Fax: 772-462-8484



People with Special Needs

An informative guide
for individuals who
need special assistance
during an emergency
evacuation.

St. Lucie County
Public Safety

What kind of emergencies require evacuation?

St. Lucie County Public Safety informs you when a situation is **life threatening** and when you must leave your home for safety. Examples of sure life threatening situations are hurricanes, chemical spills, or other accidents that produce life threatening conditions in the area you live.

Who are the “People with Special Needs”?

Individuals with special needs are those who will need help evacuating their homes during an emergency due to a disability or will require transportation to a shelter.

Where should people with Special Needs go in response to an evacuation order?

Disabled individuals, like other residents, have several choices where to go during an evacuation order. Including:

- Leaving the area
- Staying with a friend in a safe location
- Going to a Public or Special Needs Shelter

What is a Special Needs Shelter?

The intent of Special Needs Shelters is to provide, to the extent practicable, under emergency conditions, in an environment in which the current health of evacuees with special needs can be sustained. To register you must request an application through the St. Lucie County Division of Emergency Management.

To receive an application, call

772-462-8100

or visit

<http://www.stlucieco.gov/pdfs/SpecialNeedsRegistrationForm.pdf>

The St. Lucie County Special Needs Shelter is located at:

**The Havert L. Fenn Center 2000
Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, Florida
34982**



What is a Public Shelter?

Public Shelters are open during emergency situations when people must evacuate their homes in order to be safe. You should be aware of shelter locations in your neighborhood, but never report to a shelter unless its opening has been announced by the Dept. of Public Safety through local media. Schools are typically used as public shelters. If you have your own transportation, you do not need to register to use a public shelter. If you require transportation, you must register with St. Lucie County Public Safety.

To Register, call **772-462-8100** and request an application, or visit <http://www.stlucieco.gov/pdfs/SpecialNeedsRegistrationForm.pdf>, so that transportation can be provided.

