



**Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management**

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## **Palm Beach County Special Needs Shelter**

With the support of several community partners, Palm Beach County has established a Special Needs Shelter program. This program is intended to address the needs of Palm Beach County's most vulnerable population.

Prior to the arrival of a hurricane, or following a significant disaster, citizens who are registered with the Special Needs Shelter program will be able to shelter at a centrally located facility where they will be under the medical supervision of physicians and registered nurses.

### **Admittance to these facilities is restricted to the following:**

- **Dependence on electric medical devices**
- **Dependence on supplemental oxygen**
- **Certain chronic but stable illnesses that require observation or caregivers**
- **Progressive Alzheimer's or Dementia**

All persons not meeting the above criteria will be referred to their nearest general Population Shelter. If you do not meet the criteria and live in an evacuation zone or mobile home park and are disabled with no other type of transportation you may register with Palm Tran at (561) 649-9839 for the Special Transportation Assistance Program. They will transport you to a General Population Shelter at no charge.

Transportation assistance to the Special Needs Shelter may be requested through the application process. The application process will collect information on your health, along with any assistance you may need with daily living activities.

The Special Needs shelter provides safety, power and medical supervision. You will need to provide for yourself any care you would normally need to remain well. A caregiver must accompany any client requiring direct supervision or assistance.

The shelter will provide three meals a day. If you are on a special diet please bring appropriate food for a minimum of three days.

***If you are accepted by the Special Needs Shelter you will be responsible to bring certain items with you to the shelter, including but not limited to medication, supplies, oxygen and/or concentrators to meet your needs in the shelter and during transportation.***

Valuables, non-medical electronics, or big items should be left at home, only bring the things that you need most.

A wheelchair height, adjustable back cot is provided for the client, so be sure that your caretaker or companion has their own sleeping arrangements, such as an air mattress or portable cot. Arrangements should be made to take care of any pets, as only service animals will be allowed into the shelter. If you need assistance with your pets, the county operates a pet friendly shelter and may be able to assist you. Information on the pet friendly shelter can be found by calling 561-233-1266.

Be sure to let your family know about your plans for an emergency; such as staying home, staying with relatives or acquaintances, or going to a shelter. ***The Special Needs Shelter is a refuge of last resort, not a medical facility. The shelter has no beds, applicants who cannot sleep on a cot will not be accepted.***

Please make sure the application is completely filled out. Failure to properly complete the application will result in delay of evaluation. If you have any other questions about hurricane preparedness, please do not hesitate by calling our office at the number below.

Regards,



Keith Wall  
Special Needs Shelter Coordinator  
Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management  
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