

# Monroe County Hurricane Preparation – Special Needs

## State of Florida Emergency Management Act

Florida Statute 252.355 - Registration of disabled citizens; notice

(1) In order to meet the special needs of persons who would need assistance during evacuations and sheltering because of physical and mental handicaps, each local emergency management agency in the state shall maintain a registry of disabled persons located within the jurisdiction of the local agency. The registration shall identify those persons in need of assistance and plan for resource allocation to meet those identified needs.

## Evacuation and Sheltering Information

Monroe County Social Services offers evacuation transportation to elderly and disabled citizens in the event of an emergency or disaster. You must register with Social Services for this service.

You should seek help or shelter from friends, neighbors, or family in a hurricane or other disaster. Public shelters should be a last resort for those who have no other choice. If you have to go to a public shelter, try to ride with friends, neighbors, or family if you cannot drive yourself. If Social Services transports you in a category three, four, or five storm, we will pick you up at your home, and take you to a "staging area" where you will get on a school bus to ride to Miami. In a category one or two storm, you will be taken directly to a local shelter.

Please remember that space and supplies are limited at public shelters. Very few comforts will be available. The only bedding available may be blankets and sheets. If you need special foods, you should bring a couple days supply of food that will not spoil. It may be several hours before shelters are fully supplied.

If you have registered with Social Services and requested transportation assistance, you will be contacted by phone in advance of evacuation. When we call, you will need to decide whether you will be evacuating and let us know at that time. We will not be able to call you back. If you decide to evacuate, we will give you an approximate time we expect to pick you up. You must have your belongings and supplies packed and ready to go.

## Monroe County Social Services

Lower Keys: 5100 College Road, Wing 3, Key West, FL 33040, 305-292-4591

Middle Keys: 490 63rd Street, Ocean, Marathon, FL 33050, 305-289-6016

Upper Keys: 88820 Overseas Highway, Annex, Plantation Key, FL 33070, 305-852-7125

[Back to the USAG-Miami Hurricane Preparedness Page](#)