



Sheriff's Office

Volusia County

MICHAEL J. CHITWOOD, Sheriff

October 24, 2019.

Florida Action Committee, Inc.

6615 W Boynton Beach Blvd # 414
Boynton Beach, Florida 32124

SUBJECT: Request for Information
(RE: Hurricane and Emergency Preparedness for Sexual Predators / Offenders)

This memorandum is in response to your committee's request for information from the Volusia Sheriff's Office regarding hurricane and emergency preparedness for Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators registered in and/ or residing within Volusia County during a hurricane or natural disaster.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office provides a written notification of emergency evacuation procedures during hurricanes or natural disasters to every Sexual Predator / Offender upon their initial FDLE Sexual Predator / Offender registration. The procedure outlined in the written notification provides the following directions and guidance to the Sexual Predator / Offender:

-A **Sexual Predator / Offender** may waive his / her evacuation to an emergency shelter and may elect to stay at his / her residence during a hurricane or natural disaster. The Sexual Predator / Offender must indicate this waiver by signing and dating the Emergency Evacuation document indicating such decision.

In the event that a Sexual Predator / Offender is mandated to evacuate or he /she decides to evacuate voluntarily this waiver will be considered rescinded.

- A **Sexual Offender** and his / her family are able to seek shelter during hurricanes or natural disasters in a designated shelter. The Sexual Offender must notify the law enforcement officer providing security at the shelter that he / she is a Sexual Offender and present an identification card to verify his / her status.

A Sexual Predator / Offender may be subject to arrest if he / she does not identify himself / herself to the law enforcement officer providing security at the shelter.

The Sexual Offender and his / her family will be housed in the shelter separate from the general population. The segregation inside the shelter is for the safety of the Sexual Offender and his / her family during the emergency declaration.

-A **Sexual Predator** must report to the Volusia County Branch Jail where he /she will be housed until the hurricane or natural disaster is declared over and it is safe to return to their registered address.

The Sexual Predator's family members are not allowed to seek shelter at the Volusia County Branch Jail and may seek shelter in the nearest shelter of their choosing.

-All **Sexual Predators / Offenders** who are on probation, community control, or on conditional release must report initially to their respective probation officer if they wish to evacuate to an emergency shelter. The probation officer will provide additional guidance to the Sexual Predator / Offender at that time. The offender may seek emergency shelter after the contact with the probation officer, but are required to adhere to the aforementioned procedures.

-A **Sexual Predator / Offender** may evacuate the area / state until the hurricane or natural disaster is declared over. Prior to evacuating, the Sexual Predator / Offender must notify the Sheriff's Office via telephone that they are evacuating and provide the address where they will be residing during the emergency declaration.

Once the hurricane or natural disaster is declared over, the Sexual Predator / Offender will have 48 hours to return to his / her registered address. If there is an issue of returning to their registered address due to storm damage or damage to the Sexual Predator's / Offender's residence, these issues will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

-A **Sexual Predator / Offender** who decides to remain in an another location and / or register in the state or locality other than where they were previously registered after the hurricane or natural disaster is declared over is subject to arrest for failing to properly register the address change prior to establishing another residence in an another state or jurisdiction. These violations will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

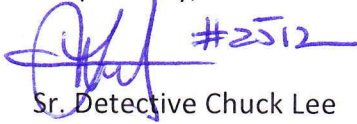
All emergency shelter locations which open in the event of a hurricane or natural disaster are published on the Volusia County website, over the local news networks and local radio station stations. The Sexual Predator / Offender is overall responsible for their safety and that of their families.

Under no circumstances will a Sexual Offender be denied access to an emergency shelter.

The designated emergency shelters within Volusia County are properties maintained by the Volusia County School Board. The Volusia Sheriff's Office works in conjunction with the school board to ensure that all of their policies and procedures are also adhered to when hurricanes or natural disasters are declared and those properties are used as emergency shelters.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office, Career Criminal Unit is the point of contact for all matters concerning movement of Sexual Predators / Offenders during hurricanes or natural disasters. The Career Criminal unit may be contacted at (386) 248-1788 or by email: CCU@vcso.us

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chuck Lee", with the number "#2512" written to its right.

Sr. Detective Chuck Lee
Career Criminal Unit
Volusia Sheriff Office