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From: **Thomas Kitchen** <[thomas.kitchen@mymanatee.org](mailto:thomas.kitchen@mymanatee.org)>

Date: Fri, Feb 18, 2022, 1:25 PM

Subject: Re: Hurricane Shelter for Registered Sex Offenders (Manatee County)

Good Afternoon,

The Chief of Manatee County's Emergency Management Division, Steve Litschauer, directed me to respond to the attached memo that was sent to our Duty Officer email account on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Presently, these would be the most representative responses to the questions contained within:

1. Where can registrants evacuate to during a hurricane or natural disaster?
  - a. Any open emergency shelter in Manatee County.
  - b. Such locations would be communicated through the Manatee County Govt. and Public Safety Department's website, social media pages, and our local news outlets.
  
2. If separate provisions are made for registrants on probation vs. registrants not on probation, what are they?
  - a. No such 'separate provisions' are made for these specific populations.
  - b. Manatee County's emergency shelter program is aimed solely at providing safe locations for residents and visitors of Manatee County to take refuge during times of emergency when remaining at home would pose an immediate risk to their wellbeing.
  - c. There is a law enforcement presence at all shelter locations and anyone needing to shelter will be held equally accountable for the actions, as they would in any other normal circumstance.
  
3. If specific shelters have been designated for registrants, what is/are the location of those shelters?
  - a. N/A

4. Will registrants be separated from their family if seeking shelter in a designated location?
  - a. Manatee County Govt. does not separate families for reasons such as this during an emergency requiring sheltering.
  
5. If an evacuation lasts 3 or more days such that the evacuation location becomes a “temporary residence” pursuant to F.S. §943.0435, are your registration locations open during the hurricane or natural disaster, to enable a registrant to comply with the in-person registration requirement? If not; what provisions are made for compliance?
  - a. Manatee County Government and/or the Emergency Management Division cannot speak to/does not dictate the operating policies or hours of ‘registration locations’ during emergencies.
  - b. Anyone requiring these services is encouraged to and, therefore, should make plans through their normal contact/check in procedures as required.
  
6. Who can a registrant contact for more information during an emergency?
  - a. Manatee County-specific emergency information, such as shelter openings, will be communicated through the channels described above.
  - b. Additionally, Manatee County’s ‘311 Surge Call Center’ may be opened and staffed during times of emergency.

Please feel free to reach back out if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

**Tom Kitchen, Jr.**  
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