

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM



Palm Beach County has established a Special Needs Program to provide for citizens with certain medical problems during a major emergency. The Special Needs Shelter is a facility with physicians and nurses on staff. It has auxiliary electrical power, is wind resistant, and not flood-prone.

Emergency Management is responsible for maintaining the client rosters, operational logistics, and coordination of the Special Care Unit and Special Needs emergency shelters. Space at these shelters is limited. Prioritization is based on need. Please refer to the criteria below:

With the support of area hospitals, the Health Department, and the American Red Cross, we have developed a Special Needs Sheltering Program. Prior to the arrival of a hurricane, citizens who meet the specific medical criteria may be taken to one of two centrally located facilities where they will be under the medical supervision of physicians and registered nurses. Admittance to these facilities may be restricted to the following:

- Persons who cannot be without electricity because they depend upon their own electrically energized life support equipment within the home (i.e. oxygen, nebulizers, c-pap, bi-pap, etc).
- Persons that are too immobile and/or have a chronic stable illness, but are not suitable for regular shelter placement, or do not require hospitalization.
- People with minor health/medical conditions that **require professional observation, assessment, and maintenance.**
- People with the need for medications and/or vital sign monitoring, and are unable to do so without professional assistance.
- Persons who are bedridden and require custodial care. **Caregivers must accompany their patients.**

To register: Download, print and complete the registration form and mail it to:

Special Needs Coordinator

20 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

or Fax to (561) 712-6464

**THE REGISTRATION FORM CAN BE PRINTED OR SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT www.rbpoa.net.**

Click on the "HURRICANE SEASON 2022" tab on the home page.