Special Needs Shelter

Quick Facts

When a major emergency or disaster threatens Hernando County, residents who depend on certain medical care, oxygen, and equipment may need to seek shelter. The **Special Needs Shelter** provides care to people who have serious medical conditions that require observation, assessment, or care. The Shelter provides a safe, secure environment but does not take the place of hospitals, assisted living, or long-term care facilities.

**Scope of Care**
Certain conditions & needs can be met:
- Chronic respiratory conditions requiring oxygen, nebulizers, and sleep apnea
- **Medically necessary** equipment that uses electricity
- Recent, but stable cardiac conditions
- People with diabetes on insulin
- Feeding tubes
- Foley catheter or ostomy
- Wound care and dressing changes
- Alzheimer’s and Dementia
- Communicable diseases or infections
- People on Dialysis

**The Shelter Has Limits**
So we can give the best care possible under emergency conditions, the Shelter cannot accommodate persons with these conditions or medical needs:
- **Bedridden patients** – The shelter provides cots but no hospitals beds
- **Respiratory** – People who use a ventilator or have a tracheotomy
- **Cardiac** -- Recent unstable cardiac patients
- **Pregnancy** – Third trimester of pregnancy or high-risk pregnancy
- **Specialized** – Children with special medical needs

**Shelter Registration**
To help us prepare and staff the Shelter, please pre-register. Also, talk with your physician, health care provider, home health, oxygen and equipment providers.

Call: 352-754-4083
Fax: 352-754-4090
Click: [http://www.HernandoCounty.us/em/specialneeds](http://www.HernandoCounty.us/em/specialneeds)
What is Provided

Each person should bring a caregiver

Shelter staff assist residents and their caregivers who have no other sheltering option. It is a shelter of last resort and a back-up to your personal disaster plan.

- Provides limited medical assistance, but more care than a general shelter
- Provides the best care possible under emergency conditions to maintain health
- Provides space for service animals, but not for pets; so please, make arrangements for your pets ahead of time

Personal Preparedness & Shelter Registration

Emergency Management tells everyone to make a Personal Disaster Plan that includes sheltering in-place and evacuation. Your Personal Disaster Kit should include food, water, medicine, and important papers. Staying Informed and letting others know you’re OK, are just as important!

Please pre-register with Emergency Management:

- Call: 352-754-4083
- Fax: 352-754-4090
- Click: http://www.HernandoCounty.us/em/specialneeds
- Talk: with your home health, medical equipment, or oxygen supplier to make sure you are registered

What To Bring:

- A companion or caregiver
- ID, medical information, Living Will / Do Not Resuscitate Order
- Oxygen concentrator or tank, nebulizer, tubing and connectors
- At least 7 days of prescription and non-prescription medicine
- Medical equipment, wheelchair, walker, canes
- Medical supplies, dressings, insulin, syringes, glucose meter and strips
- Eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, and orthopedic shoes
- Change of clothes, extra socks
- At least 7 days of special food and nutritional supplements
- A cot, sleeping bag, blankets, pillow
- Brush, comb, towel, wash cloth
- Toothbrush, deodorant, soap, and incontinent items
- Books, games, magazines, cards, toys, and quiet electronics
- Label all personal items with your name, address and telephone number

Do Not Bring

- Pets, firearms, alcohol, medicine or prescription that are not yours

Shelter Location
Challenger K-8
13400 Elgin Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL 34609

More Information
Hernando County Emergency Management
352-754-4083
http://www.HernandoCounty.us/em/specialneeds