

**Residents are urged to prepare their property and their gated communities for hurricane season. Online resources, videos available to help**

***Fort Myers, FL, May 7, 2024 – This is National Hurricane Preparedness Week and the perfect time for residents to take steps to prepare their landscaping and for those in gated communities to be sure their associations are ready, too.***

Don't wait until a storm is forecast to impact Lee County. Take this weekend to prune any trees or shrubs that could damage your home or pool cage.

**Survey the property for any items that would become a projectile** during a storm. Secure them or set them out for disposal next week. Keep in mind that typically garbage collections are suspended 24 hours prior to a hurricane making landfall in our area.

Yard trimmings can be set out in waste cans, paper lawn and leaf bags, or tied with cotton string into bundles weighing 50 pounds or less. Palm fronds do not need to be tied if they are stacked neatly at the curb in piles weighing less than 50 pounds.

**Residents can take paint, fertilizer, pesticides or other chemicals to the facility for safe and responsible disposal.** It's an easy, drive-through process available to all residents at no additional charge. Businesses need to make an appointment to drop off chemicals during the monthly business collection. **The Household Chemical Waste drop-off location is open each weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon at [6441 Topaz Court](#) in Fort Myers.**

For more information on preparing property for a storm, visit [www.leegov.com/solidwaste/hurricane](http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste/hurricane) and also [www.leegov.com/hurricane](http://www.leegov.com/hurricane). At the latter landing page, you will find a series of informational videos as well as the county's All Hazards Guide. The videos and guide go into detail about what to do before, during and after a storm. Helpful tips and resources are included, such as how to prepare a hurricane kit and how to find the nearest shelter. Lee County Public Safety encourages HOAs and other neighborhood community groups to consider scheduling an event to watch the materials with neighbors.

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