

This is an important update for everyone in Lee County, and it's coming from us here inside the Emergency Operations Center.

We want you to know we are pursuing and putting in place rescue operations to assist people stranded by high water and storm surge, and we are calling on all partners from all levels—from local to national—to rescue everyone as quickly as possible.

This is a scary situation, and we understand that. We urge people not to panic. If you can remain safe where you are, our first responder community urges you to stay there.

If you or your neighbors or loved ones are not safe, we want you to understand what we're doing to get to you and get you out of there.

Our county leaders are working with Urban Search and Rescue teams from across the country. These are experts trained in swift water rescue and they will be here as soon as the hurricane conditions allow them to travel into the Lee County area.

We will lean heavily on our Florida USAR Task Force units to come and help us get to you. This plan is moving forward right now, led by first responder and fire representatives inside the Emergency Operations Center.

Finally, we expect to receive assistance from the Army and Coast Guard to conduct rooftop rescues in areas that are hardest to reach. There are 50 aircraft on standby to use when conditions allow.

Once more, please know we are with you. We are part of your community. Our loved ones are here. Our homes are here. We are here. We will get through this.