State of Florida Emergency Evacuation Routes

The purpose of the document is to provide an overview of existing evacuation routes, their use, and current clearance times as they relate to the proposed Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program. This document does not aim to analyze or provide conclusions on any proposed project; rather this document compiles documentation and figures from existing studies and evacuation analyses pertaining to hurricane evacuation. While evacuation routes can be used for all hazards that may impact the state, this document focuses on hurricane evacuation.

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Overview of Evacuation Routes

Evacuation routes are located throughout the State and are designed to move individuals from within an evacuation zone to a safe refuge. Safe refuge can be shelters, hotel rooms, homes of friends and family, or any lodging safely outside the evacuation area. While the state generally encourages individuals to evacuate tens of miles, not hundreds, history has shown that many residents seek to evacuate farther than required. The state designates routes to support these evacuation patterns. In general, these routes are a mixture of US highways, state roads, turnpikes, and interstates.
The map above shows the current evacuation routes that exist within the Northern Turnpike and Suncoast Connector Areas. These areas include the following counties:

- Citrus
- Lafayette
- Sumter
- Dixie
- Marion
- Taylor
- Gilchrist
- Levy
- Jefferson
- Madison
Southwest-Central

The map above shows the current evacuation routes that exist within the Southwest-Central Florida Connector area. This area includes the following counties:

- Charlotte
- Collier
- DeSoto
- Glades
- Hardee
- Hendry
- Highlands
- Lee
- Polk
Emergency Shoulder Use

To assist with evacuations, the State of Florida utilizes emergency shoulder use to increase the flow of traffic during a disaster. Florida Department of Transportation states that “Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) is Florida's innovative strategy to increase traffic capacity during major hurricane evacuations using existing paved shoulders. First developed in 2017 and covering key corridors within the state, ESU plans replace the former one-way plans, also known as contraflow and lane reversal.”

In other words, ESU utilizes existing shoulders on primary roadways to create additional lanes for traffic. Not every designated evacuation route utilizes ESU. Current usage is limited to the following:

**Interstate 4**
- Eastbound from US 41 in Tampa (Hillsborough County) to SR 417 in Celebration (Osceola County)

**Interstate 10**
- Westbound from SR 23 in Jacksonville (Duval County) to Interstate 75 in Lake City (Columbia County)
- Westbound from Interstate 75 in Lake City (Columbia County) to US 319 in Tallahassee (Leon County)

**Interstate 75**
- Northbound from SR 951 in Naples (Collier County) to SR 143 in Jennings (Hamilton County)

**Interstate 75 Alligator Alley**
- Northbound from US 27 in Weston (Broward County) to SR 951 in Naples (Collier County)
- Southbound from SR 951 in Naples (Collier County) to US 27 in Weston (Broward County)

**Interstate 95**
- Northbound from SR 706 in Jupiter (Palm Beach County) to south of Interstate 295 in Jacksonville (Duval County)

**Florida's Turnpike**
- Northbound from SR 50 in Winter Garden (Orange County) to US 301 in Wildwood (Sumter County)

State of Florida Clearance Times

When discussing evacuations, clearance time refers to the maximum amount of time it takes for those under evacuation orders to leave the area under threat. The numbers are a planning assumption based on extensive studies and modeling done by the state in partnership with local counties and planning councils.
Disclaimer

To clarify, these clearance times are estimates, based on the reasonable-worst case scenario for storm surge that a hurricane of a specific category could produce. There are many variables that could make the impacts less than or greater than the numbers provided. Again, the numbers shown are the reasonable-worst case scenarios.

Current Clearance Times for Northern Turnpike Connector Counties

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<th>Hurricane Category</th>
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In the graph above, When more than one county has the same clearance times, only one will be shown.
Current Clearance Times for Suncoast Connector Counties

In the graph above, when more than one county has the same clearance times, only one will show on the graph. Certain inland counties and counties bordering Georgia will have low clearance times regardless of category.
Current Clearance Times for Southwest-Central Connector Counties

In the graph above, When more than one county has the same clearance times, only one will be shown.
Statewide Clearance Times

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</table>
### State of Florida Emergency Evacuation Routes

#### Region 4
- **Union**: 14.5, 14.5, 14.5, 14.5, 14.5
- **Citrus**: 23.5, 28.5, 34.5, 47, 55.5
- **Hardee**: 16.5, 21.5, 27.5, 35, 40.5
- **Hernando**: 24, 29, 35, 47, 56
- **Hillsborough**: 23.5, 28.5, 34.5, 47, 55.5
- **Pasco**: 23.5, 28.5, 34.5, 47, 55.5
- **Pinellas**: 23.5, 28.5, 34.5, 47, 55.5
- **Polk**: 18, 21.5, 30.5, 48.5, 54
- **Sumter**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5

#### Region 5
- **Brevard**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5
- **Indian River**: 15, 15.5, 19, 26.5, 39
- **Lake**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5
- **Martin**: 15, 15.5, 19, 26.5, 39
- **Orange**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5
- **Osceola**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5
- **Seminole**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5
- **St Lucie**: 15, 15.5, 19, 26.5, 39
- **Volusia**: 17, 18.5, 20, 24, 30.5

#### Region 6
- **Charlotte**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
- **Collier**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
- **Desoto**: 18, 21.5, 30.5, 48.5, 54
- **Glades**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
- **Hendry**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
- **Highlands**: 18, 21.5, 30.5, 63, 54
- **Lee**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
- **Manatee**: 23.5, 28.5, 34.5, 47, 55.5
- **Okeechobee**: 18, 21.5, 30.5, 48.5, 54
- **Sarasota**: 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5

#### Region 7
- **Broward**: 27, 29, 42, 56, 73
- **Miami-Dade**: 27, 29, 42, 56, 73
- **Monroe**: 27, 29, 42, 56, 72.5
- **Palm Beach**: 15, 15.5, 19, 26.5, 39

#### Statewide Maximums
- 35.5, 44.5, 63.5, 76, 94.5
The Florida Division of Emergency Management’s Role

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) oversees the Hurricane Evacuation program. Day-to-day, this program coordinates with local emergency management programs to understand and interpret their clearance times and assist with providing new modeling based on updated surge zones. During disasters, this program also oversees the Evacuation Liaison Team, a multi-discipline group that coordinates with FEMA and other states on evacuation decisions.

The long-term project of the Hurricane Evacuation program is to maintain and assist with the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study.

The purpose of this study is to provide information to assist with local and state threat hazard identification risk assessment and improve local and state evacuation and shelter planning for tropical cyclones. The original study was mandated in 2006 by H.B 7121 after the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons and provided the common operating picture for evacuation and shelter planning for counties and state emergency management for recent Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Matthew (2016), Irma (2017) and Michael (2018).

It is FDEM’s intent to update the program in the coming years, taking into account new variables, including:

- Population, demographics, and updated census data
- Changes in population behavior when threatened by a hurricane
- Storm Surge mapping, new tropical storm basins, and new elevation data
- Roadway and evacuation route networks.
- Population and Demographics, Census Data

The successful completion of the updated study would provide the following:

- New evacuation scenario information
- Potential points of traffic congestion due to evacuations
- New estimates of populations seeking refuge at non-shelters
- Improved local and state hurricane evacuation shelter planning
- Information to assist with outreach and public education