

# Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District Newsletter

941-751-7675 [www.SMFR.com](http://www.SMFR.com)

## Be Prepared Series: Preparing Your Pets

If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Emergencies may call for evacuations. Each one requires a different response. The best thing you can do for yourself and your pet is to be prepared. Here are a few simple steps to help you prepare for an evacuation.

1. If you evacuate, take your pet. Arrange a safe haven for your pets ahead of time. Ask your veterinarian for a list of preferred kennels or boarding facilities. Not all emergency shelters accept pets. Know which ones do and the requirements before you go. Keep a list pet friendly hotels or motels that accept pets. Call ahead and reserve a room. Evacuate early to lessen stress for both you and your pet. Check these websites for possible lodging: [Bringfido.com](http://Bringfido.com), [Dogfriendly.com](http://Dogfriendly.com), [Petswelcome.com](http://Petswelcome.com), [Tripswithpets.com](http://Tripswithpets.com).
2. Prepare emergency supplies and travel kits. Start by making sure your pet(s) wear collars with up-to-date identification tags. Make sure your contact information is on the pets ID tag. Have your pet microchipped and make sure your information on the chip is current. Bring a first aid kit and all medications you will need for at least two weeks. Have easy open cans or store open dry food in containers. Bring feeding dishes, paper towels, garbage bags, bedding, leash and toys. Have a recent picture of your pet along with current shot records.
3. Consider our geographic considerations. We know our area is prone to possible hurricanes, but we also get heavy rain storms. With rain comes flooding. Plan accordingly. Outside pets can be in real danger if flooding occurs. Bring outside pets inside if possible. Move them to higher ground when necessary.

We all need to plan for an emergency. Knowing what you are going to do and where you are going to go makes the event less stressful. And that is for you and your pet.