



SOUTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

1109 North Jackson Street
Albany, Georgia 31701-2022
(229) 430-4599 Fax (229) 430-5143 Emergency 888-430-4590
www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org

March 31, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carolyn Maschke, Public Information Officer

229-430-1969, 229-357-0257; cwmaschke@dhr.state.ga.us

What to bring to a shelter if you are asked to evacuate

Southwest Health District officials are asking residents to prepare an "emergency go kit" so they will have essentials ready should authorities begin evacuations from low-lying areas at risk of flooding.

"An emergency go kit should contain your families' important papers, any medications needed by family members, personal hygiene items, changes of clothing, diapers and emergency contact information," said Southwest Health District Emergency Preparedness Director Julie Miller.

"If you are told to evacuate by local authorities, you will be directed to a shelter. Please let shelter officials know if you have special medical needs," she said.

Families with pets should have emergency kits with food, bowls, medications, pet carriers and other necessary items prepared and should make arrangements to take their pets to veterinarians or friends for boarding until after the emergency is over, Miller said. "You should not count on emergency shelters to take pets," she said. "Most of them do not."

Miller also said that rescue and recovery workers should make sure that their tetanus shots are up-to-date. "County health departments have tetanus vaccine on hand," she said.

More information on emergency preparedness is available online at www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org or by contacting your local health department or emergency management agency.

Public Health officials will continue monitoring events. Please listen to local media and emergency workers to remain informed on health and safety recommendations, Miller said.

###

Baker	Calhoun	Colquitt	Decatur	Dougherty	Early	Grady
Lee	Miller	Mitchell	Seminole	Terrell	Thomas	Worth