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## Lilly Rooks: Who are your next of kin?

By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 5, 2017 at 4:27 p.m.

**LEVY COUNTY** -- Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks captured the essence of truth about whether to evacuate or not. She shared a short story Tuesday morning (Sept. 5) at the regular twice-monthly County Commission meeting. Levy County Emergency Management Director John MacDonald was giving an update to the commissioners.

Levy County Emergency Management is closely watching Hurricane Irma and its possible effects to Levy County and the surrounding area. Hurricane Irma has been upgraded to a Category 5 Hurricane.

Regardless of where this storm goes, it is very important that all Levy County residents and visitors become prepared now and do not wait. Residents should be checking their disaster supply kits, emergency evacuation plans, emergency pet plans, and make sure that they are registered to receive emergency alerts by visiting [www.AlertLevy.com](http://www.AlertLevy.com).

A list of emergency kit supplies can be found by visiting the Levy County Emergency Management website at [www.levydisaster.com](http://www.levydisaster.com) or the FEMA preparedness site at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Levy County Emergency Management has opened its public information lines to assist residents and visitors with any questions or concerns that they may have. They can reach us from 8am to 5pm at 352-486-5155 or 352-486-5576.

Commissioner Rooks said she was speaking with a person several years ago. The person told Rooks that the government cannot force a person to evacuate. Commissioner Rooks conceded that is the truth.

She then asked the person for the name of her next of kin.

"Why?" the person asked.

Commissioner Rooks said she knew the location of this person's house, and if they were told to evacuate, she wanted to know the name of the person's next of kin to tell them where to potentially find the body. The person then evacuated when the government advised it.