

Tips for Boat Owners

- Check with your marina manager and mooring contract for policies and procedures for hurricanes.
- In advance of a storm, take photos of your boat, both inside and out. When you leave, take all important documents with you.
- Check with the manufacturer for proper ways to secure your boat during a storm.
- Consider moving arrangements well in advance of an approaching storm.
- Trailer boats should be removed from the water and securely stored at least 48 hours before a hurricane is expected to make landfall.
- Purchase necessary hurricane materials such as additional mooring lines, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear, and anchors.
- At marinas without floating docks, attach dock lines to allow for both high and low water conditions.

The Best Advice is to prepare or move your boat before a hurricane becomes a threat!



Local Coast Guard Resources

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary provides vessel safety checks, and safe boating courses. Vessels safety checks are 100% free of charge!

To get started with your path to safer boating please visit: <http://cgaux.org/vsc/> Fill out the short request form and click submit. We will locate the closest volunteer vessel examiners within 30 miles of your location, have them contact you, and set up a vessel safety check for your boat.

For more information about recreational boating safety please visit: <http://www.cgaux.org/> <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON

Main Phone (281) 464-4800
24-Hour Emergencies (281) 464-4840/4855
VHF Channels 16/22A

Commander
USCG Sector Houston-Galveston
13411 Hillard St.
Houston, TX 77034

Severe Weather Preparation For Small Craft And Recreational Boaters



- **What are Port Conditions?**
- **Port Conditions**
- **Hurricane Conditions**
- **Tips for Boat Owners**
- **Local Coast Guard Resources**

What are Port Conditions?

- Port Conditions apply to Recreational Boaters!
- Port Conditions are different than Hurricane Conditions.
- Port Conditions are set by the COTP to alert the maritime community of phased increases in required port readiness posture ahead of hurricane arrival.
- Port Conditions are set based on time remaining until anticipated arrival of gale force winds (34 knots/39 mph) within the COTP Zone.
- Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNTMs) and Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) will be transmitted on VHF-FM channels 16 and 22A, and otherwise published via internet postings, phone contact, electronic mail, facsimile, and the activities of the Port Coordination Team whenever a Port Condition is set or altered.
- These notices will be tailored to account for the circumstances of a specific storm.
- A rapidly emerging or swiftly evolving storm may necessitate the skipping of port conditions en-route Port Condition Zulu.

Port Conditions

Seasonal Alert: is defined by the Atlantic Basin Hurricane season and is in effect 01 June thru 30 November unless otherwise established.

WHISKEY: Sustained Gale Force winds from tropical cyclone activity are expected to arrive within 72 hours.

X-RAY: Sustained Gale Force winds from tropical cyclone activity are expected to arrive with 48 hours.

YANKEE: Sustained Gale Force winds from tropical cyclone activity are expected to arrive within 24 hours.

ZULU: Sustained Gale Force winds from tropical cyclone activity are expected to arrive within 12 hours.

RECOVERY: Storm is no longer a threat to the area, some damage may have occurred and response and recovery operations are in progress.

Hurricane Conditions

Hurricane Watch: hurricane conditions are possible in the watch area within 48 hours.

Hurricane Warning: hurricane conditions are possible in the warning area within 36 hours.

Hurricane: an intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane Category 1: sustained winds of 74 to 95 mph.

Hurricane Category 2: sustained winds of 96 to 110 mph.

Hurricane Category 3: sustained winds of 111 to 129 mph.

Hurricane Category 4: sustained winds of 130 to 156 mph.

Hurricane Category 5: sustained winds greater than 156 mph.

For more information about hurricanes visit:

<http://nhc.noaa.gov>

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane>

