

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN HARBORVIEW HOTEL MARINA

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The Tampa Bay area is accustomed to storms and lightning, ranging from afternoon thunderstorms, which are a regular occurrence during certain times of the year, to large hurricanes, which are a threat during the summer and early fall.

Commercial Docking Facilities and Marinas are particularly susceptible to hurricane damage largely due to storm surge, a mass of wind- driven water that produces an abnormal increase in sea level. Storm surge when coincident with high tide conditions can be especially damaging. Although such conditions can conceivably produce water levels as high as 25 feet above mean sea level, Tampa Bay has rarely experienced a direct hit of a hurricane, and has usually experienced only high winds and tides a few feet above normal.

Hurricanes are divided into the following categories:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Wind Velocity</u>	<u>Tidal Surge</u>
I	74 - 95 mph	+5 - 7 feet msl
II	96 - 110 mph	+8 - 10 feet msl
III	110 - 130 mph	+11 - 12 feet msl
IV	131 - 155 mph	+13 - 18 feet msl
V	156+ mph	+19 feet msl

Stage 1:

Stage 1 will go into effect in the event a Hurricane Watch is issued by the National Hurricane Center. All employees will report to the Hotel & Marina Director, the "Director" as quickly as possible. The "Director" will 1) have the employees inform any customers that may be on the premises as to the identification of the "Director" and inform the customers that the "Director" is in charge of all operations at the marina including all boat movements and 2) immediately direct the employees to remove or secure any loose equipment that may be on the docks or on the uplands and store the equipment in the high and dry building.

Should wind velocity reach or exceed 40 miles per hour during the securing of the marina, the employees are to wear life vests when going onto the floating dockage. Any customers present who are removing their boats by water from the marina are to wear life vests.

Stage 2:

Stage 2 will go into effect when an evacuation of Pinellas County is ordered or when a Hurricane Watch is upgraded to a Hurricane Warning. The "Director" and employees will inform all boat owners or other customers that may be at the marina that they must begin

evacuation. The “Director” will direct the employees to have the water mains and electrical mains turned off. The “Director” will release his employees in time for them to safely secure their homes and evacuate with their families and will lock all valuables in the safe and secure the premises.

Preparations Prior to Hurricane Season

Always make sure your boat is in good repair.

1. Examine the structural condition of your vessel and repair as needed.
2. Check all thru-hull fittings, shafts, props, stuffing boxes, etc. In the event of a storm, everything except the bilge pump outlets and cockpit drains should be securely closed.
3. Make sure your vessel has proper grounding for lightning protection.
4. Disconnect radio antennas from instruments before the storm.
5. Make sure bilge pumps are in working order and batteries are properly charged.
6. Prepare a checklist of equipment needed to secure the vessel before the storm and store the equipment in a readily accessible location.
7. Purchase any supplies or equipment well in advance. Stock additional lengths of mooring lines, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear and anchors with chain. Limited supplies will run out quickly once a storm warning is announced.
8. Make an inventory of things to be removed from your vessel.

Available Options

1. You may simply plan to better secure the boat when a storm is threatening.
2. You may consider an alternate and “safer” dockage site.
3. You may wish to relocate to a “hurricane anchorage,” which is a more reasonable alternative for larger vessels (40 feet or larger).

Regardless of the chosen alternative, prepare a written plan for what you are going to do when a hurricane is threatening. Also have a friend ready to follow up with your plan should you be absent. Rehearse your plan with your family and friend. Try to think through what you will need to adequately secure your boat for a hurricane and how much time to allow. Perhaps have two plans, one in the event time is available and a second if time is limited.

Choose your Option

- I. If you plan to move to a “safer” dock site, make sure:

1. You have extra dock lines, chafing gear and fenders, and take all precautions noted above.
2. You allow ample time to get to the dock and to evacuate the area. Remember you may be fighting wind and rain.

II. If you plan to move to a "hurricane anchorage:"

1. Select possible sites well in advance (before hurricane season). Be aware that most bridges will be locked in the down position after an evacuation order is issued.
2. Make a trial run to:
 - A. Verify water depth, size of anchor, chain and anchor scope required. Sufficient anchor chain and line for at least six times the normal (7:1) scope required should be carried for laying out the anchors. At least two anchors of the proper size for the vessel should be used; three anchors are better.
 - B. Verify potential mooring structures (such as trees on shore).
 - C. Verify the time required to get to the site.
 - D. Determine how to get off the boat and to a car.

Things to Remember

1. The boat owner will be responsible for any damage caused by his boat if it should break loose. Make sure it is properly secured.
2. No one shall be allowed to remain on their boat during a hurricane.
3. Life jackets must be worn when walking on the docks when wind velocities are in excess of 40 miles per hour.
4. Extreme caution should be exercised in all outdoor activities. In the event of an injury, outside medical aid may not be available.

For your protection, we suggest stocking last year's picnic basket or cooler with emergency provisions and placing it in a readily available location. Consider purchasing a cigarette lighter plug and an emergency antenna for your VHF marine radio. This will provide you with weather bulletins and telephone capability. Do not forget a broadcast radio, flashlight, matches and candles, fire extinguisher, water and water purification tablets, food and utensils, medical supplies and sanitary facilities and supplies. A plastic bag draped over a small garbage can with a tight-fitting lid is an excellent emergency toilet.

Again, careful planning, preparation and rehearsal will go a long way toward preventing damage or injury as a result of a hurricane and the exercise will most likely come in handy the next time you ride out a tropical storm.