

Hurricane Preparation and Plan

I. At the Start of Hurricane Season – June 1st

- Update emergency contact information for boat owners, including cell phone numbers and email addresses. If you need to reach a lot of people quickly, use email addresses at work. If necessary, follow up later with a phone call.
- Take photos of facilities, inventory, machinery and valuable tools for insurance purposes.
- Make up laminated photo ID tags to give to Hurricane Team. This may help get staff back into restricted areas after the hurricane.
- Contact boat salvors. Making arrangements now is much more likely to bring a quick response after the storm. The same is true of building and dock contractors – making contact before the storm is more likely to get you assistance sooner when the storm has passed.
- Don't rely on local TV, radio or even the weather channel for reliable predictions. Make it a habit to check various weather sites online to find one that is easy to use and accurate. For practice, use this site to track all hurricanes during the season, regardless of where they're headed. Sites that give detailed (lat/long) predictions include the Weather Underground, BoatU.S and NOAA. NOTE: The official sites sometimes make plotting mistakes, including some that were over 100 miles off. To assure accuracy, plot the predicted coordinates yourself on a tracking chart.

II. Advance Preparation

Items the Club should consider having on-hand all of which will be in short supply once a warning is posted...

- emergency generators (and fuel),
- plywood and nails,
- sandbags,
- flashlights,
- communication radios,
- batteries,
- pumps,
- yellow caution tape,
- extra fuel,
- duct tape,
- boat hooks,
- water, drinks and food - to feed staff during clean up after a storm,
- remove refrigerator and freezer
- move items off the floor to higher elevations; e.g.,attic

Specific hurricane preparation requirements should be written down now so that they can be posted on the Club's web site.

Shore power cords must be unhooked. Lines should be adjustable from the dock. Extra lines should be left in the cockpit. Dinghies on storage racks must be lashed down. Get the name of an alternate person who can prepare the boat in the owner's absence. This will allow owners to contact someone else, in the event that he or she won't be able to prepare their own boats.

- Paint the edges of the dock white so that missing planks will be more visible when the docks are underwater.
- Consider building concrete hurricane moorings with pad eyes that can be used to strap down boats stored ashore.

III. Hurricane Plan

All club members are responsible for their own property in the event of a hurricane or other storm conditions.

Establish a telephone chain and/or email alert system for key personnel and all membership.

Wet Slips:

Based on the forecasted severity of wind and tidal surge, wet-slip boats must be properly secured with additional dock lines or hauled out, and trailer-stored, if space permits, otherwise, removed from the property. Otherwise, plan on moving boats to a nearby hurricane hole. Make your arrangements before hurricane season

Wet slips boat owners need to be mindful of potential mast entanglement with neighboring boats. Consider removing sails, extending lines to more distant pilings, doubling lines, adding chafe protection and fenders.

Dry Slips:

Dry-slip boats should be well-secured to their trailers.

All trailered boats must consider dropping masts and removing sails if high winds are predicted and moving to higher ground, off-site, if tidal surge is predicted to be significant.

IV. When a Hurricane Watch is Posted

- If you haven't done so already, begin preparing marina facilities and boats.
- Contact all members of your Hurricane team and review assignments.
- Contact boat owners and refer them to hurricane prep information posted on web site. Remind them that they are responsible for preparing their boats.

V. **When a Hurricane Warning is Posted**

- Hook up and test emergency generators.
- Respect hurricane evacuation plans mandated by the city or county. Don't ask anyone to stay in the area if a storm is considered "dangerous."
- If the hurricane's impact is expected to be minimal, ask for volunteers who may be able to help adjust lines during the storm.
- Shut down electricity and water on the docks.

VI. **During the Hurricane**

- Good luck.

VII. **After the Hurricane**

- Photo document damage for insurance purposes. If possible, contact your insurer.
- Contact contractors you'll be needing to rebuild. Be aware that a lot of "contractors" and "salvors" will be showing up who aren't full-time professionals (an understatement). Work only with the contractors you're familiar with, preferably the ones you contacted before the storm.
- Begin debris clean up. Make two piles – debris that is reusable and debris that will be hauled away.