
STORM WATCH

Boat Preparedness Before A Storm

Be Prepared – Be Ready!

Hurricanes can wreak havoc upon people and property. Be prepared **prior** to the storm's appearance. We care for your safety and the safety of your property, especially your boat where proper preparations can make a big difference. Here are a few hints for proper care of your boat or yacht prior to the storm arriving.

- The **best thing** you can do is get out of harm's way.
- Storing your boat on land is the preferred and safest method of taking care of your boat. If hauling the boat is not an option, take it to a secure harbor.
- Pilot the boat away from the predicted path of the storm to a safe harbor
- Be prepared well in advance. Buy all your supplies ahead of time, so you beat the rush on storm day
- These items include: extra lines, fenders, extra anchors, exhaust port plugs and duct tape (it can be used for everything).
- Just like supermarkets and hardware stores run out of items prior to a storm, marine supply stores do also. **REMEMBER TO GET THEM EARLY!!**

Trailerable Boats

- If the boat is in the water, haul it. Secure it on the trailer by lashing it with nylon lines. If possible, put the boat and trailer in a garage. If not, make sure it is secured to a tree or to the ground using augers.

Moored Boats

- Your choice of mooring location is very important. Choose an uncrowded mooring location with protection from open water and with good holding ground. The one thing you don't need is a crowded location where one boatowner doesn't prepare enough and we have the "pinball effect" from the other.
- Set a three point mooring system with oversized lines and chafe protection
- Set your lines as long as possible. Estimate a conservative storm surge and long wave swells.

Docked Boats

- Choose an uncrowded dock with sturdy pilings and a minimum of 20' depth. Secure the boat with oversized dock lines, double or triple lines and add chafe protection.
- Space extra fenders along the side and set anchors to keep the boat away from the pilings and the dock

General Information

- Seal all ports, vents, scoops, hatches, windows, doors, etc.
- Remove accessible equipment, supplies, ship's stores, ship's papers, etc.
- Charge all sails, bimini tops, sun shades, canvas, etc. to reduce wind resistance.
- Close the fuel tank, propane or C.N.G. valves.
- Take all valuables such as electronics, appliances and documents off the boat.

Don't stay on the boat! – Go Home!! Staying onboard is too dangerous. Boats can be replaced but you can't be and there is little you can do once the hurricane comes ashore!



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