

GULFPORT MUNICIPAL MARINA SEVERE WEATHER AND HURRICAN PLAN

365 DAYS A YEAR

Because severe weather may occur at anytime, marina tenants must ensure their vessel is always appropriately prepared and secured to handle the potential onslaught of high winds, high tides, heavy rains, or all three at once. It is also necessary that you are positive your engine(s) will run, that your steering is operational, and that your boat is ready to get underway – under its own power – at all times on any and all days of the year. This expectation is to be your normal status 365 days a year.

STAY INFORMED DURING HURRICANE SEASON

In the event of an approaching tropical system, marina tenants are reminded to monitor the National Weather Service and make prudent decisions regarding the evacuation of their boat from the marina. Evacuation automatically becomes MANDATORY with any forecasted rise in sea water of four feet or more above normal high tide.

PLAN AHEAD

Boaters are reminded that the Marina Staff has several responsibilities during the approach of a tropical system and, therefore, cannot dedicate themselves to managing the safety of any single vessel. Marina tenants must ensure they have planned, well in advance, to care for their own vessel themselves or that they are in contract with someone who will. This includes planning for a safe dockage location AWAY from our marina and planning for the actual movement of your boat out of the marina BEFORE any tropical conditions present themselves at the marina.

MANDATORY EVACUATION

Anytime a tropical system is forecast to raise the water level in the marina by four or more feet, or based on the advice of local authorities, it is our expectation that all marina tenants will take IMMEDIATE ACTION to remove their boats from the marina and seek safer dockage elsewhere. **We will make no exceptions to this four-foot rule, so please don't ask.**

REMEMBER: BECAUSE OF ITS GULF-FRONT LOCATION, THE GULFPORT MUNICIPAL MARINA IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS SAFE DOCKAGE DURING LANDFALLING TROPICAL WEATHER AND IT IS REQUIRED THAT ALL VESSELS RELOCATE TO A SAFER LOCATION WHEN CONDITIONS – AS STATED ABOVE – WARRANT.

UTILITIES

Power and potable water service to all slips will be completely shut down when the sea-water level reaches a point where it is overtaking the main piers throughout the marina. It is important to ensure all vessel batteries are fully charged before this takes place.

FUEL

The fuel dock will be shut down well in advance of a landfalling system because the trailer must be moved to a safer location. In the event it is not moved earlier, it will be closed when any rise in sea level reaches the fuel transfer pipes under the fuel dock pier. Because it is unknown when this may take place, boaters are reminded to keep sufficient fuel onboard their vessels before a storm approaches so that the vessel may be moved to safer marina when needed.

NAVIGATION

Remember, the train bridges between the Sound and the bays close early based on wind speed. If you are going to relocate your boat to points beyond (north of) those bridges, please pay special attention to the advisories from the state, county, and cities regarding same.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Vehicle access to the marina will be terminated when the winds and/or water levels become unsafe, based solely on the opinion of the Harbormaster. It is therefore necessary for all marina tenants to plan accordingly and not wait until the last minute to make a decision on the safety of themselves and their vessel.

FOOT ACCESS

For everyone's safety, foot traffic on the piers will be extremely restricted and/or prohibited at any point where sea water rises more than five inches above the main piers. Access onto the piers during tropical weather will be solely at the discretion of the Harbormaster.

LIABILITY

Marina tenants who fail to abide by the rules outlined in this hurricane plan, and/or who disregard any announcements or demands to remove their vessel from the marina, will assume any and all liability and responsibility for said vessel and any damage it receives or any damage it may cause to city property as a result of the storm's impact on the marina.