

# HURRICANE PLAN FOR LAZY BEND

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## FOREWARD

The following hurricane plan for residents of Lazy Bend is intended to help coordinate all our efforts in the sub-division to prepare our boats, our homes and our property for hurricane conditions. The closing of the canals may only affect boat owners, but properly tying down anything that can be thrown around in high winds will help protect all homeowners. There is no way to force these suggestions or methods on anyone, and the board does not intend to enforce this plan. Instead, we hope that all neighbors will cooperate with their neighbors to make our evacuation process flow as smoothly as possible.

Thank you for taking time to read the attached and for following these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Lazy Bend HOA Board of Directors.

## 1. **PREPARE FOR HURRICANE IN ADVANCE**

The following should be taken care of before hurricane season:

- a. Locate, mark or install ground anchors,
- b. Check mooring lines for availability, condition, strength and length.
- c. Check condition of cleats on the boat, particularly the method in which the cleats were anchored.
- d. Discuss with your neighbor and agree as to how each boat will be tied up and where each boat will sit in the canal. (see pages 9 & 10)
- e. Make arrangements with someone to take care of your boat if you are away when a hurricane is approaching.
- f. Stock up on all supplies BEFORE the start of hurricane season.
- g. Make sure that all bilge pumps are working and batteries are topped up.

## 2. **CANAL CLOSING**

Once it is apparent that the Galveston Bay Area will be affected by a hurricane or strong tropical storm, all guest boats **MUST** leave the canal. All boats remaining should be tied as shown on page (8). If you plan to store your boat some place other than our canal, please move it out of the canal as soon as predictions indicate an impending storm as others will want to secure their boats so they may then secure their homes and leave town early enough to avoid the stand still traffic seen in previous evacuations.

It is impossible to predict when a storm will hit, therefore, any decision regarding the closure time of the canals, will be based on the NOAA hurricane predictions and local evacuation orders. Galveston County judge will declare evacuation notice for our area (Zone A);

<https://www.galvestontx.gov/496/Hurricane-Evacuation>. The canal will be closed within 36 hours after the hurricane's path is predicted by NOAA to make landfall in the Galveston Bay area with a greater than **75%** chance. The hours before the canal closure takes effect will allow guests and homeowners to remove any boats from the canals or return to their mooring in the canal. After that time, homeowners can tie up their

boats. If you must leave before the canals are closed, arrange for someone that has proper knowledge and access to your property to secure your vessel in times of a hurricane. Boats that can be taken to safety on trailers should be taken from the water as soon as possible since most launching ramps will be covered by water after a storm. **TAKE YOUR TRAILERED BOAT TO HIGHER GROUND – DO NOT LEAVE IT ON YOUR PROPERTY.**

Tie the boat to the trailer securely, place blocks around the wheels and deflate the tires to prevent the trailer from rolling.

3. **SECURING BOATS IN THE CANALS** (*See Diagram*)

The system used by Lazy Bend residents to secure their boats for hurricanes has worked very well. During Hurricane Ike, only a single boat was lost as a result of not being properly prepared for a hurricane. That boat was tied to a piling as it would be for normal tides, but as it rose up in the 14ft storm surge, it turned on its side, filled with water and sank. The hurricane mooring system requires cooperation among property owners and a willingness to assist each other to their mutual benefit.

**ONLY LAZY BEND RESIDENTS MAY HAVE THEIR BOATS IN THE CANAL DURING A HURRICANE THREAT.**

The canals are only 50 feet wide and we have a lot of boats in both canals; Any extra boats will only increase the danger for damage due to crowding boats in the canals.

**If you plan to be gone for prolonged periods, please inform your neighbors where you store your mooring lines and allow them permission to board your boat to secure it should that become necessary.**

**ALL FLOATING DOCKS/RAFTS must be secured by either by removing them from the water and tying them down (if it is small), or left in the water using the methods described in the attachments.**

**IF ADEQUATE AND REASONABLE MEANS ARE NOT TAKEN TO SECURE BOATS & FLOATING DOCKS AND THEY BREAK LOOSE AND CAUSE DAMAGE TO OTHER BOATS, THE**

## **BOAT/FLOATING DOCK OWNER WILL BE HELD LIABLE FOR DAMAGES.**

Tie your boat to strong points as far away as reasonable. Your boat may need to float up 20+ feet higher than normal due to storm surge, so you want the angle of the line from your boat to the strong point to stay as close to horizontal as possible.

- Nylon mooring lines of ½ inch in diameter will hold boats up to 26 feet. Mooring lines at 5/8 inch in diameter will hold boats from 26-40 feet. The weakest part of the entire system is not the ground anchors or line, but the cleats on the boat. If the cleats are suspect and you don't have time to repair them, a boat bridle can be constructed.
- Sufficient slack should be left in the mooring lines to allow the boat to rise with the higher water levels, as well as lower should the water be blown out of the canals.
- Spring lines are recommended for all boats.
- Mooring to someone else's line is NOT recommended.
- Ground Anchors should be in every yard. If you cannot locate yours and need to get anchors, they may be available from Kemah Hardware before a storm approaches. They are also available from electrical supply houses as they are used by electric companies to anchor the guy wires. A 6" diameter flange is adequate for smaller boats; an 8" diameter flange is recommended for boats over 25 feet. They should be inserted on the top of the embankment and angled away from the house, towards the canal.
- When tying lines to the ground anchors, use thimbles to protect lines from chafing. Some folks use old fire hose as chafe protectors.
- When tying off to pilings, use a knot that tightens around the piling

when the line is under tension (e.g. Constrictor, Buntline hitch, Round Turn and Two Half Hitches or a Towboat hitch) rather than a Bowline or other knot that forms a loop that does not constrict around the piling. With a very high storm surge as in Hurricane Ike in 2008, the boat may pull up at an angle on the piling and you don't want the knot to slip or float off the piling.

- BILGES: Please pump them dry. IF you have automatic bilge pumps, they should be turned on and batteries fully charged.
- Remove all bimini/dodger material and securely tie supports,
- Remove any small, loose items from decks and secure inside the boat or home.
- Remove power for your dock.
- All fuel cans should be stored outside where they can be secured so they do not damage your boat or pollute our water.
- Tips for preparing your pool can be found at <https://www.intheswim.com/eGuides/preparing-your-pool-for-a-hurricane>

#### **4. EVACUATION ROUTE**

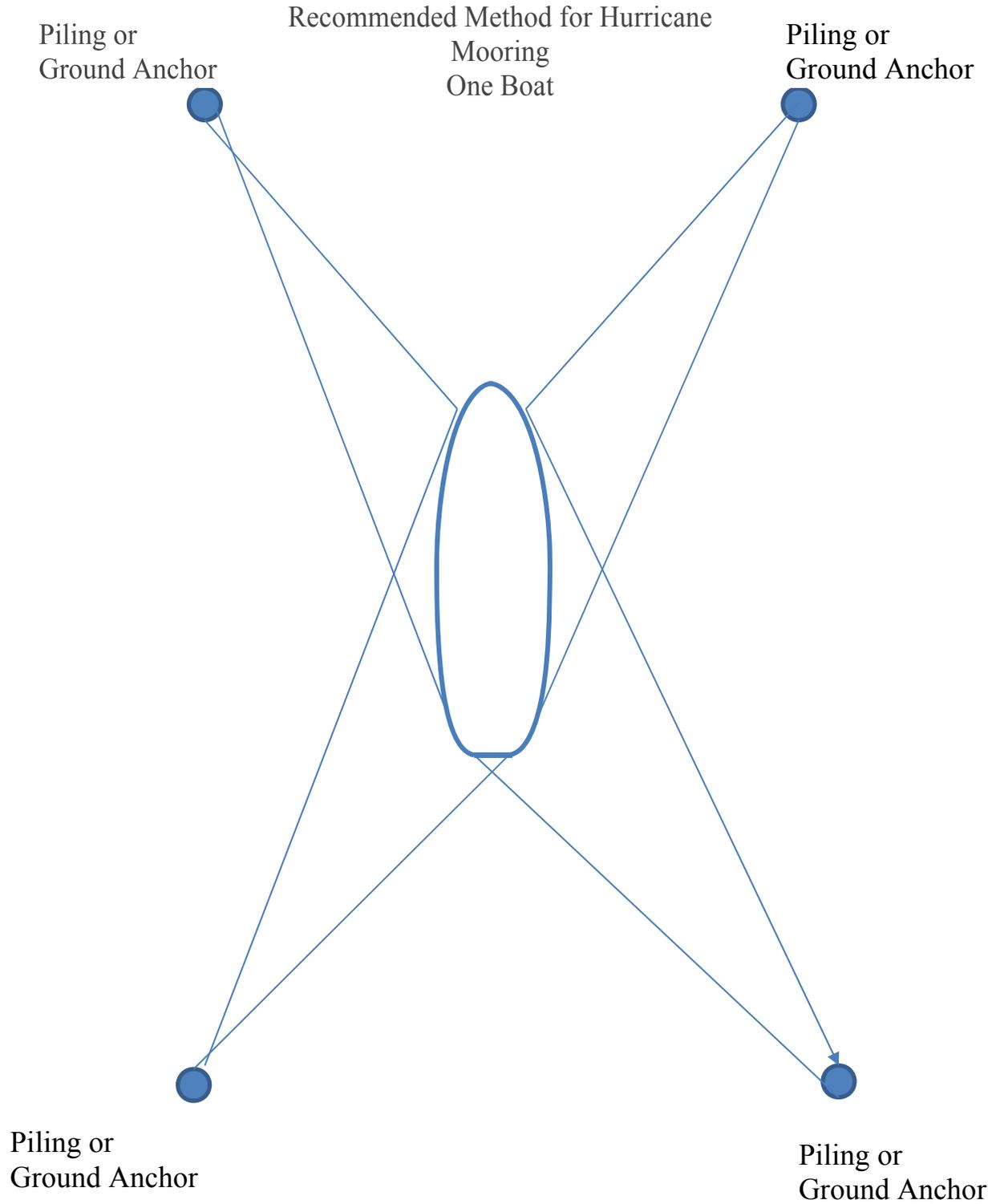
**SEE TXDOT.COM FOR LATEST SUGGESTED EVACUATION ROUTE. THE CURRENT PLAN WILL EVACUATE THE COASTLINE FIRST SO LAZY BEND RESIDENTS/BOAT OWNERS MUST PREPARE BOATS AND HOMES EARLY. KNOW YOUR DESTINATION IN ADVANCE AND PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND AN ALTERNATE ROUTE.**

#### **5. CANAL OPENING AFTER THE THREAT HAS PASSED**

As soon as the hurricane danger has passed and the high water has receded to a safe level to return to homes, the canals will be opened by returning the boats to their normal mooring. If a boat owner is not in the area after the waters have returned to normal, a neighbor or friend should be allowed to return the boat to its normal mooring to permit the canal to reopen. As a general rule, the canal should be cleared to normal traffic 24 hours after the hurricane danger no longer exists and the water level receded to the normal high tide levels where it is safe to get to the boats. We suggest you immediately wash mud off of wood decks, it is very difficult to remove once the mud has dried.

**IF WE ALL WORK TOGETHER AS THE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WE ARE, WE WILL ALL BE BETTER FOR IT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

# SECURING VESSELS IN THE LAZY BEND CANALS



Recommended Method for Hurricane  
Mooring  
Two Boats

Piling or  
Ground Anchor

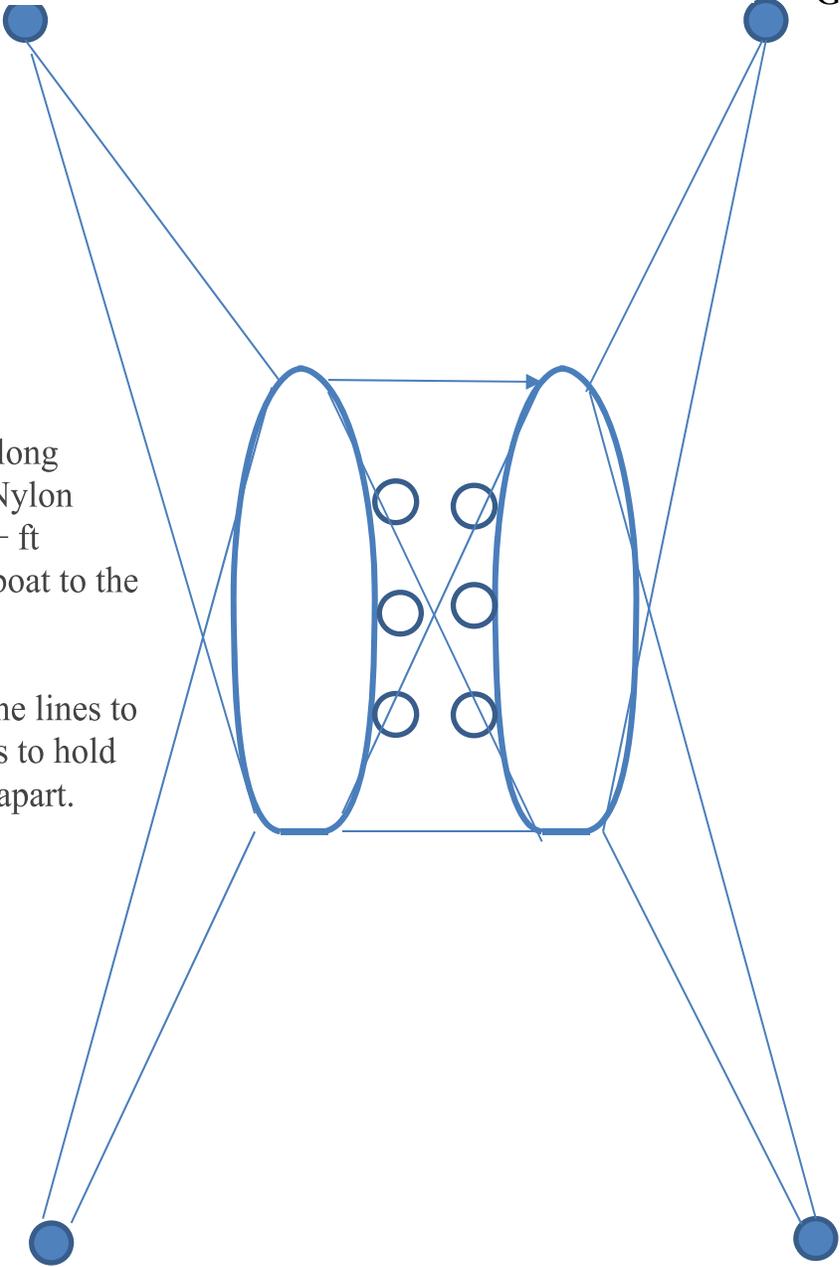
Piling or  
Ground Anchor

Use very long  
3-strand Nylon  
lines 100+ ft  
from the boat to the  
pilings

Tension the lines to  
the pilings to hold  
the boats apart.

Piling or  
Ground Anchor

Piling or  
Ground Anchor



SUGGESTION: Turn the bow(s) towards the NORTH if possible as that is the direction from which most of the trash and debris floats into the canals during the storm, this way it will slide around your boat and not become blocked by the stern.

**DO NOT TURN BOATS ACROSS THE CANAL AS THIS MAY CAUSE A DAM EFFECT WITH DEBRIS.**