



Port Community Information Bulletin # 15-04  
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189  
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: June 1, 2004  
Expiration Date: December 1, 2004

## **HURRICANE SEASON 2004**

Hurricane season begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through November 30<sup>th</sup>. With this in mind, it is time once again to make some preliminary plans. In preparation for this year's hurricane season, beginning on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Marine Safety Office Tampa set Hurricane Condition Four within the Captain of the Port Tampa area of responsibility. In order to be better prepared and to avoid vessel, facility and environmental damage, vessel and facility operators should review their heavy weather contingency plans and make preparations as necessary.

Tampa Bay's location on the eastern edge of the Gulf of Mexico places it in a difficult position when hurricanes threaten the Tampa Bay Area. Therefore, in order to ensure a safe and timely evacuation of ports within the COTP Tampa zone, all oceangoing commercial vessels and barges over 200 gross tons within Tampa Bay shall make ready to put to sea upon the setting of Port Condition X-Ray (48 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds), and shall have departed the port beyond the sea buoy by Port Condition Yankee (24 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds). Any oceangoing commercial vessel or barge over 200 gross tons desiring to remain in port must request permission, in writing, from the COTP upon setting of a 72-hour alert.

Terminology used to classify port conditions will be used in order to establish continuity throughout Atlantic Area Ports. The PCIB's for the Port Conditions will be titled as follows:

### **Port Condition**

- Port Condition Whiskey (72 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Condition X-Ray (48 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Condition Yankee (24 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Condition Zulu (12 HOUR ALERT)**

The request to remain in port must be submitted along with a Heavy Weather Vessel Lay-Up Plan. Recommendations to the COTP for vessel evacuation from Tampa will be made by the Tampa Bay Port Heavy Weather Advisory Group, which is comprised of a representative from the CG, Pilots Association, three Port Authorities, towing operators and pre-designated industry representatives within Tampa Bay. Shipping agents are requested to make their vessel owners/operators aware of these requirements.

J. M. FARLEY  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port