



Marine Safety Information Bulletin
26-08
August 29, 2008
SET HURRICANE CONDITION WHISKEY

Effective at 2:00 P.M. CDT, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur has set **Port Condition WHISKEY** and established a temporary safety zone for the port(s) of Beaumont, TX, Port Arthur, TX, Orange, TX and Lake Charles, LA including all tributaries and connecting waterways. Gale force winds from **HURRICANE GUSTAV** are expected to make landfall along the coast of southeast Texas and western Louisiana **within 72 hours**. The following restrictions apply:

1. All cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach 35 MPH.
2. All commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons and seagoing tugs and barges greater than 200 gross tons intending to remain in port must immediately notify the Captain of the Port of their intentions and submit a Remaining In Port Checklist to the Captain of the Port for approval.
3. Vessels bound for these ports which are unable to depart prior to the closing of the port are advised to seek an alternate destination.

A guide entitled "Hurricane Information for the Maritime Industry" is available to assist in planning for hurricane season. Remaining In Port Checklists are available from the Vessel Traffic Service website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur>, HOMEPORT (<http://homeport.uscg.mil>) or by calling the VTS Watch Supervisor at (409) 719-5070. Completed forms may be faxed to the VTS at (409) 719-5090 or e-mailed to vtspa_sup@msoportarthur.uscg.mil.

To ensure the safety of your vessel and crew, now is the time to plan. Vessels are advised to seek safe harbor in the northern reaches of the waterway. Survey places to moor or anchor to safely ride out a tropical storm or hurricane, and make available the necessary heavy weather mooring gear. **Vessels shall not moor in locations that impede the safe transit of vessels in the channel.** By regulation, vessels intending to moor at 33 CFR 105 facilities must have an agreed upon security arrangement with the facility prior to the vessels mooring.

Future Port Conditions cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty but, provided the storm remains on the projected course and speed, port stakeholders can expect the following progression of Port Conditions:

Port Condition	Status	Date	Time
WHISKEY	SET	29 AUG 08	2:00 P.M.
X-RAY	Predicted	30 AUG 08	P.M.
YANKEE	Predicted	31 AUG 08	P.M.
ZULU	Predicted	01 SEP 08	A.M.
Arrival of Gale Force Winds	Predicted	01 SEP 08	P.M.

This notice will be posted on the HOMEPORT website <http://homeport.uscg.mil>. If you have any questions, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 723-6500.



J.J. PLUNKETT
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port