U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. COAST GUARD
Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas

Marine Safety Information Bulletin
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HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1.

The Captain of the Port, Port Arthur, Texas reminds you that the 2007 Hurricane Season officially starts June 1. All facilities, vessels, service companies, and organizations in the Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone should have their hurricane preparations or plans completed prior to the beginning of Hurricane Season.

From our experience and preparations with previous storms, and from our recent experience with Hurricane Rita in 2005, the following cautions and lessons learned are offered as a reminder to all parties:

1. **If possible, all deep draft vessels should depart the port for sea well in advance of an approaching hurricane.**
2. **If deep draft vessels must remain in port, an approved Heavy Weather Plan and "Staying in Port Checklist" must be completed and submitted to MSU Port Arthur for approval at least 72 hours prior to the arrival of the storm.**
3. **Commercial boat and barge tows that normally transit the Intracoastal Waterway should depart the area if possible, or they should move as far inland as possible on our rivers and bayous in order to find secure moorings. Special attention will be paid to tows with CDC cargoes.**
4. **None of the almost 80 commercial fishing vessels that were moored south of the Texaco Island Intersection (near the West Port Arthur Bridge) survived Hurricane Rita without significant damage or sinking. Commercial fishing vessels should leave port if they can. Those that cannot leave port should find shelter as far north on our rivers and bayous as possible to increase their chances of surviving a significant storm.**
5. **In order to insure continuity of operations in the event of a significant storm, MSU Port Arthur personnel will relocate to a secure area prior to the arrival of the storm and establish a remote Command Post. Communications from the Command Post will be facilitated by any means necessary, including radios, mobile telephones, email, and Web site postings.**
6. **Facilities with storage tanks are encouraged to take positive action as much as possible to secure their tanks by any appropriate means, including pressing up, flooding, or cutting holes.**
7. **The Port Arthur Port Coordination Team (PCT), coordinated by the U. S. Coast Guard, which includes members from most local facilities, boat operators, pilots, and other federal agencies, will be activated prior to the storm and continue daily conferences before, during, and after the event. PCT members are encouraged to network with their sub-contractors, vendors, and customers by any means available to facilitate information flow to the entire maritime community.**

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.

T. SPARKS
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port