



Marine Safety Information Bulletin
34-08
September 10, 2008 – 11:00 A.M.
SET HURRICANE CONDITION X-RAY

Effective at 11:00 AM, September 10, 2008 CDT, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur has set **Port Condition X-RAY** for the ports of Beaumont, TX; Port Arthur, TX; Orange, TX; and Lake Charles, LA including all tributaries and connecting waterways. Gale force winds from **HURRICANE IKE** are expected to make landfall along the coast of Texas **within 48 hours**. The following restrictions are in effect:

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.

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.


R.S. OGRYDZIAK
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
For the Captain of the Port