



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

06-12

May 22, 2012

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1st

The 2012 Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1st. All facilities, vessels, service companies, and organizations in the Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone should have their hurricane preparation plans completed prior to the beginning of hurricane season.

If deep draft vessels expect to remain in port, an approved Heavy Weather Plan and *Remaining in Port Checklist* must be completed and submitted to MSU Port Arthur for approval at least 72 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds.

Hurricane Planning Information, including the *Remaining in Port Checklist* for ships and tug/barges, is available at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/vtsporthur/hurricanes.asp>.

From our experience with previous storms, the following recommendations are offered:

1. Deep draft vessels should depart the port for sea, when at all possible, well in advance of approaching tropical weather systems.
2. Commercial boat and barge tows that normally transit the Intracoastal Waterway should depart the area, when at all possible, or move as far inland as possible on our rivers and bayous in order to establish secure moorings. Special attention will be paid to tows with Certain Dangerous Cargo (CDC).
3. Facilities with storage tanks should take preventative action to secure their tanks by any appropriate means, including pressing up, flooding, or cutting holes.
4. Commercial fishing vessels should leave port when at all possible. Commercial fishing vessels that cannot leave port should find shelter as far north on our rivers and bayous as possible to increase their chances of surviving a tropical weather system. When Hurricane RITA, a Category Two storm, made landfall in 2005, not one of the approximately 80 commercial fishing vessels that were moored in the Sabine River south of Texaco Island survived without significant damage or sinking. However, fishing vessels that sought shelter on the upper Neches River during Hurricane IKE in 2008 suffered little or no damage.

5. In order to ensure continuity of Coast Guard operations in the event of a significant storm, MSU Port Arthur personnel will relocate to a secure area and establish a remote Command Post prior to arrival of the tropical weather system. Communications from the Command Post will be facilitated by any necessary means, including radios, mobile telephones, email, and Web site postings.
6. The Port Arthur Port Coordination Team (PCT), coordinated by MSU Port Arthur, which includes representatives from local facilities, boat operators, pilots, and other federal agencies, will be activated prior to the storm and hold daily conference calls before, during, and after the event. PCT members should network with their sub-contractors, vendors, and customers by any means available to facilitate information flow to greater maritime community.

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



G. J. PAITL
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port