



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 27-02  
October 01, 2002

*Port Condition X-Ray Set for Houston-  
Galveston - Hurricane Lili*

The U. S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port has set Port Condition X-Ray for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City. The most recent advisory, at 1400 EDT, located the center of Hurricane Lili at 22.3N, 84.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. The storm is currently forecasted to track west-northwest at 14 mph towards the Gulf Coast and possibly strengthen to a Category 2 storm later on today. Gale force winds from Hurricane Lili extend 140 nm from the center of the storm and are possible along the coast of Texas within 48 hours. Sea conditions may restrict the movement of vessels in and out of the port well ahead of the arrival of high winds.

The Captain of the Port has established a safety zone for the following areas:

The MSO Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port zone as defined in 33 CFR 3.40-28 to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and all surrounding navigable waterways.

To enter, transit or remain within this safety zone, vessels must comply with the following requirements:

1. Report Intentions to Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston. All commercial vessels and ocean-going barges greater than 500 gross tons must advise the Captain of the Port of their intent to remain in port or depart. If intending to remain in port, all vessels must **complete and submit "Remaining in Port Checklist" for approval by 1500, 01 OCT 2002.** (Any outstanding checklists need to be faxed as soon as possible.) Checklist can be obtained by visiting the MSO Houston-Galveston website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/inport.htm> or calling (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0). The Checklist must be faxed to the COTP, at

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5177. As the storm approaches, it is anticipated that Marine Safety Unit Galveston may be evacuated from their normal office space. Therefore representatives will be assembled at MSO Houston-Galveston to review checklists from Galveston, Texas City and Freeport.

2. Closure of Departure/Arrival Windows. Ocean-going ships and barges over 500 gross tons departing the port must depart no later than 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds (Port Condition Zulu). Vessels bound for COTP Houston-Galveston Zone ports, which are unable to arrive 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds are advised to seek an alternate destination.
3. Cargo Operations/Bunkering. All transfer operations shall cease upon arrival of sustained 40 mph winds. All vessels intending to leave port and requiring bunkers shall plan accordingly to ensure preparations for departure are complete by 12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds.
4. Smaller Commercial Vessels Not Restricted by Draft. Smaller commercial vessels not restricted by draft, including fishing vessels, are asked to seek shelter outside the deep draft shipping channels and turning areas.

Within 24 hours of expected gale force winds, the COTP will set Port Condition Yankee. Future Port Conditions are set contingent upon the storm's course and speed. Should the hurricane increase in speed, conditions may be set sooner.

Questions or comments regarding this bulletin should be directed to the Marine Safety Office Command Duty Officer or Hurricane Officer at (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0).

**E. W. Parsons**  
**Commander, U.S. Coast Guard**  
**Alternate Captain of the Port**