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

Marine Safety Information Bulletin
06-16
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HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS JUNE 1st

All facilities, vessels, service companies, and organizations in the Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone should have their hurricane plans completed prior to the beginning of hurricane season.

If deep draft vessels expect to remain in port during a hurricane, a Heavy Weather Plan and *Remaining in Port* Checklist must be completed and submitted to MSU Port Arthur 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/vtsportarthur/hurricanes.asp and http://homeport.uscg.mil/contingency plans/local contingency plan.

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

- **Deep draft vessels should depart the port for sea, when at all possible, well in advance of approaching tropical weather systems.**
- **Commercial boat and barge tows that normally transit the Intracoastal Waterway should depart the area or move as far inland as possible on our rivers and bayous in order to establish secure moorings.**
- **Facilities with storage tanks should take preventative action to secure their tanks by any appropriate means, including pressing up, flooding, or cutting holes.**
- **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. However, fishing vessels that sought shelter on the upper Neches River during Hurricane IKE in 2008 suffered little or no damage.**

In order to ensure continuity of Coast Guard operations during 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 all available means, including radios, mobile telephones, email, and Web site postings.

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.

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