

**Lightkeepers Marina**

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## **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

The goal of this hurricane plan is to provide for the safety and security of all the watercraft and marina facilities at Lightkeepers Marina in the event of an approaching hurricane or other storm posing a threat of property damage.

The U.S. Atlantic Coast hurricane season officially begins on June 1 and extends through November 30. Other tropical disturbances can be a threat as well. The planning for such potential events is a joint effort of marina staff and boat owners. Others may be requested to assist in preparation if deemed necessary.

Don't rely on local TV, radio or even the weather channel for reliable predictions. Make it a habit to check various weather sites online to find one that is easy to use and accurate. Sites that give detailed (lat/lon) predictions include the Weather Underground, BoatU.S and NOAA. NOTE: The official sites sometimes make plotting mistakes, including some that were over 100 miles off. To assure accuracy, plot the predicted coordinates yourself on a tracking chart.

The Dockmaster will coordinate all hurricane preparedness activities through the Ship's Store, and may or may not be responsible for assisting in securing boats in the marina. If a boat remains unsecured and at such time that the dockmaster feels it is necessary, a professional agent may be engaged to help secure boats at the boat owner's expense.

### **Boats and Boat Owners**

It is imperative that all boat owners understand that they are liable for any damage to another boat, dock, piling or other facility that their boat causes.

A few general items to be aware of include:

- ✓ Take down all canvas
- ✓ Remove loose objects from the decks, cockpits and docks
- ✓ Bolt dock boxes to dock
- ✓ Maintain and replace dock lines, as needed (including extra lines with chafe gear)
- ✓ Submit Hurricane Preparedness Plan for any vessel in the marina
- ✓ Designate and coordinate with responsible party, including
  - Boat owner to prepare boat
  - Personal contact (friend or neighbor) to prepare boat
  - Professional agent to prepare boat

### **Mooring**

The key to a good docking plan is long lines – the longer the better – to accommodate the predicted storm surge. A good rule of thumb is that storm lines should be at least as long as the boat itself. Use longer, larger lines protected by chafe gear. Dock lines need to be attached to pilings and properly installed cleats. Lines may have to be run across slip ways or across the dock to provide sufficient purchase.

Nylon mooring lines are good because they stretch under loads. Under emergency situations chafe gear can be made by using lots of duct tape and old canvas.

Most boats should be docked with the bow toward open water, or toward the least protected direction which reduces windage. Boats on davits or lifts need to be removed and either stored inside the larger vessel or stored on shore.

### **Boat Preparation**

Reduce windage by removing every movable item from decks, cockpits, and docks.

Water damage can be prevented by removing cowl ventilators and install closure plates or tape off the vents using duct tape. Clear debris from scuppers, close seacocks (thru-hulls) except those used for drainage. Putting a bung or duct tape the exhaust to prevent water from flooding the engine.

Make sure that the vessel's batteries are fully charged. If vessel has a high energy need, additional batteries may be needed. Vessel should be unplugged from the shore power, and all power on the boat turned off except for bilge pumps. Bilge pumps and intakes should be checked for clogs/debris.

If the vessel is connected to shore water, telephone, and/or cable these connections should be removed and stowed.

For sailing vessels, all sails should be removed and stowed for maximum protection. Halyards should be secured to reduce flogging and damage to fittings and objects.

In order to prevent theft, all electronics and other valuables should be taken home for safekeeping. All the vessel's documents should also be removed from the boat before a storm hits.

### **Dock Preparation**

Dock boxes need to be bolted to the dock. Lids should be locked and even tied down to keep tops from being ripped off. Power and other utilities cables/hoses should be removed from the docks and stowed either in dock boxes, on boats, or removed from the marina. All gear should be removed from the docks, leaving only power pedestals, dock boxes, and fire extinguishers.

### **Dockmaster/Staff/Volunteers**

- Monitor weather forecasts.
- Delegate supervision of "volunteers" in assisting in preparations.
- Inspect marina facilities and boats to determine hurricane/storm readiness; and potential sources of danger and damage.
- Remove all debris, litter and extraneous gear from grounds and docks (including fuel cans, buckets, dinghies, dock carts, etc.).
- Coordinate necessary shut down of utilities, closing of marina, boarding of windows, removal of items such as trashcans, deck furniture, and flags.
- Determine need for removal of files (paper and electronic), cash, computer, and other ship's store/marina office materials.

- Evacuate all persons if storm conditions are predicted to severe.

### **Return and Recovery**

Return to LKM should occur only after dangerous winds and risk of surge/flooding have passed. Cleanup and return to normal operating conditions should be accomplished as soon as possible, but not at the risk of personal safety.

An individual designated by the property management company needs to be on site to coordinate with any salvage operations, boat owners, authorities, and insurance personal. Security has to be enforced to limit access so that personal safety and marina recovery is not compromised.

### **Dockmaster and Property Management**

- Conduct a safety inspection and document damages. If necessary, assistance will requested from the Emergency Management Agency, fire department, utility companies, and/or local police. Promptly call insurance agent to report claims and losses.
- Mark and block any hazardous areas.
- Evaluate boat conditions and make any reports to boat owners.
- Prioritize and begin clean up and repairs after all investigations and documentation has been completed.
- Evaluate need for and contact qualified repair contractors such as electricians and plumbers. Arrange for cost estimates, but do not authorize work until insurance settlements are completed.