

## **It's Hurricane Season!**

### **“Batten Down The Hatches!”**

So, you are a boat owner and you find out a hurricane is headed your way. What do you need to do to prepare for the storm and hopefully keep your boat safe from harm?

#### **BEFORE:**

1. If possible, get your boat out of the water.
2. Move it as far away from tidal water as possible.
3. Use additional jack stands, and strap vessels to the ground.

#### **What if your boat can't be removed from the water?**

1. Double all lines, rig cross-spring lines fore and aft, and attach lines high on pilings to allow for tidal rise and surge.
2. At anchor - Move to the most protected area possible and set multiple anchors. Use at least a 10:1 scope.
3. Remove any canvas covers and remove or secure sails.
4. Inspect the mooring to make sure it is designed to withstand the load your vessel will place on it. Inspect chains; swivels that connect to the mooring buoy. Double up on the mooring pendant.
5. Remove EPIRBs (Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons), life rings, throwables, life jackets and any other loose items from the boat and store them in an indoor location.
6. Make sure all batteries are charged to keep the automatic bilge pumps running throughout the storm.

#### **DURING:**

1. If possible, DO NOT STAY ON THE VESSEL.
2. Find shelter on land and ride out the storm.
3. Keep an eye on the news media to track the storm.
4. Remember tornadoes can occur during a hurricane and winds can exceed 100mph. The safest places in a building are in the lowest level of a home, in a bathroom, closet, or basement under the stairs.

#### **AFTER:**

1. Keep in mind that water conditions may be hazardous after a storm. There may be debris, trees, pilings, and missing navigation markers. There could also be raw sewage in the water. Don't wade or swim to your vessel.
2. Water levels may still be high due to flooding.
3. Use caution and avoid areas where first responders are working.
4. Be observant and vigilant and maintain safe speeds in the water.
5. Contact your insurance agent if you have damage to your vessel.
6. As always, if there is any distress or emergencies use channel 16 on your VHF radio or call 911.

#### **FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION:**

<https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2019/august/where-to-keep-your-boat-during-a-hurricane>

