



Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 11-004

May 10, 2011

Hurricane Port Readiness Condition Requirements

This MSIB clarifies USCG mandated Hurricane procedures and defines Hurricane Port Conditions for the Port of Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach and Fort Pierce Indian River Terminal and all terminals, facilities and waterways in Sector Miami's area of responsibility.

Hurricane Port Readiness Condition Whiskey:

- Sustained gale force winds (39-54 mph / 34-47 knots) are predicted to arrive within seventy-two hours.
 - Take due diligence to prepare for potential storm impacts.
 - Ports and Waterfront Facilities begin removing all debris and secure potential flying hazards.
 - Container stacking plans should be implemented. Waterfront facilities that, due to space constraints, are unable to reduce container stacking height to no more than four high, must submit a container stacking protocol to the Captain of the Port (COTP) Miami for approval.
 - The COTP will convene the Strategic Weather Advisory Team (SWAT) via conference call.

Hurricane Port Readiness Condition X-Ray:

- Sustained gale force winds are expected within forty-eight hours.
 - All potential flying debris will be removed or secured.
 - Hazardous materials/pollution hazard must be secured in a safe manner away from waterfront areas.
 - Facilities continue to implement container stacking protocol.
 - Containers must not exceed four tiers unless previously approved by COTP.
 - Containers carrying hazardous materials may not be stacked above the second tier.

- All oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons must prepare to depart the ports and anchorages. These vessels shall depart immediately upon the setting of Port Condition Yankee.
- Vessels that are unable to depart the port must contact the COTP to request and receive permission to remain in port. Proof of facility owner/operator approval is required.
- Vessels with COTP's permission to remain in port must implement their approved mooring arrangement.
- Terminal operators should prepare to terminate all cargo operations.
- The COTP may require additional precautions to ensure the safety of the ports and waterways.
- Coast Guard Port Survey teams will be deployed to validate implementation of Port Condition X-Ray.
- The COTP will convene the Strategic Weather Advisory Team (SWAT) via conference call.

Hurricane Port Readiness Condition Yankee:

- Sustained gale force winds are expected to arrive within twenty-four hours.
 - The COTP will re-convene the SWAT via conference call.
 - Affected ports are closed to inbound vessel traffic.
 - Appropriate container stacking protocol must be completed.
 - Terminal operators must terminate all cargo operations not associated with storm preparations. Cargo operations associated with storm preparations include moving cargo within or off the port for securing purposes, crane and other port/facility equipment preparations, and similar activities, but do not include moving cargo onto the port or vessel loading/discharging operations unless specifically authorized by the COTP.
 - All facilities shall continue to operate in accordance with their approved Facility Security Plans and comply with the requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA).
 - Oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons must depart the ports and anchorages unless prior permission to remain has been granted by the Captain of the Port.
 - Anticipate drawbridges may be closed to vessel traffic as early as eight hours prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds.
 - Coast Guard Port Survey teams will conduct Port Condition Yankee validation.
 - The COTP will convene the Strategic Weather Advisory Team (SWAT) via conference call.

Hurricane Port Readiness Condition Zulu:

- Sustained gale force winds are expected within twelve hours.
 - All Port waterfront operations are suspended excepting final preparations as expressly permitted by the COTP necessary to ensure the safety of the ports and facilities.
 - All vessels must have departed the ports and anchorages unless otherwise authorized by the COTP.
 - Coast Guard Port Survey Teams will conduct final port assessments.
 - Ports will remain closed to waterfront activities until the passage of tropical storm force winds and the COTP, in conjunction with the SWAT, has determined that it is safe to reopen the ports based upon:
 - Ports and waterways damage surveys.
 - Checks of aids to navigation.
 - Status and condition of drawbridges.
 - Re-establishment of required port security measures in accordance with respective Facility Security Plans.
 - The COTP will convene the Strategic Weather Advisory Team (SWAT) via conference call.

Post-Hurricane Conditions

- Affected Ports will remain closed until the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the COTP:
 - Port should begin to conduct damage assessments within the ports and movement within the port landside is authorized when deemed safe, provided appropriate security measures are in place in accordance with MTSA requirements. The designated MTS Recovery Port Coordination Team (PCT) member must notify the COTP upon determination that the Port is physically/structurally safe to recommence operations.
 - Coast Guard Sector Miami teams will conduct preliminary assessments in the ports and waterways as soon as weather conditions permit.
 - Facilities may not receive cargo or passengers until the COTP specifically authorizes. At a minimum, the COTP must be advised by the Facility Security Officer that facility security plans are fully implemented and CBP is prepared to process passengers/cargo, as applicable, and Coast Guard Port Survey Teams have verified that security measures are in place.
 - Bridge operation will remain coordinated through the respective EOCs until the COTP determines that resumption of bridge operations is safe.
 - Safety zones established around the ports during the event will remain in effect until rescinded by the COTP. No vessel movement or port operations will be authorized without the express permission of the Captain of the Port. Anticipate the potential for draft and other restrictions based upon the assessment of waterways and aids to navigation surveys.

MSIB 11-004
May 10, 2011

- All hurricane informational documents will be posted to Homeport under the “Port Conditions” section for Miami, and may be accessed via the following internet link: <http://homeport.uscg.mil>
- Additional post-hurricane information will be distributed by the COTP via MSIB and direct contact with MTS Recovery Port Coordination Team (PCT) members.

Please direct any questions regarding this MSIB to Coast Guard Sector Miami Command Center at (305) 535-4472.



C.P. Scraba
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Miami