

Harbour Woods Marina Storm Preparations

Hurricane preparedness is vital to the operation of a marina of any size. The costly hurricane seasons of 2011 and 2012 are evidence of the importance of being prepared early and for the worst. Boat owners should consider hurricane preparation part of normal boat and marina maintenance. Just a few unprepared boats can inflict incredible damage on a marina, as can unsecured facilities and equipment.

Harbour Woods Marina (HWM) offers the following planning and preparation checklist in preparation for an active hurricane season. Advance planning is the best protection.

If followed, the suggested time schedule, safety equipment and precautions will reduce the possibility of damage to your boat, but cannot guarantee it.

All storms are different and cannot be predicted in terms of wind speeds and tide changes once they make landfall. Knowing what to expect from a hurricane and when to secure your vessel will help increase chances the vessel will withstand possible damage.

Harbour Woods Association strongly recommends removing your boat and equipment from the marina if a Hurricane is predicted in the area.

ADVANCE HURRICANE PLANNING CHECKLIST

1. Primary Mooring Lines – Check size, condition and length.
2. Spring Lines – Check size, condition and length.
Check vessel cleat size to be sure primary/spring lines will fit on one cleat.
3. Chafe gear – use clear vinyl, water hose or leather (punch a hole in each end of the hose to secure it to line with smaller line to avoid sliding).
4. Rehearse storm mooring procedures.
5. Update insurance coverage and locate vessel papers.
6. Photograph your vessel, inside and out, in case of a possible insurance claim.

MINIMUM MOORING LINE STANDARD

Yacht Size (overall length)	Primary Line Size (diameter)	Spring Line Size (diameter)
Up to 23 ft.	3/8"	3/8"
24 ft. to 32 ft.	1/2"	1/2"
33 ft. to 42 ft.	5/8"	5/8"
43 ft. to 51 ft.	3/4"	3/4"
Over 51 ft.	1"	1"

Use only 3-strand twisted or braided nylon (no polypropylene or manila).
Chafe gear – water hose, clear vinyl tubing, sewn on leather (tape is not effective).

WEATHER

Storms cause high winds (74-165mph, 100mph average). Tornadoes often accompany hurricanes, high tides (8-6 ft. 10 ft. average), tidal surges and intense rainfall. All of these weather conditions will threaten your vessel, but your vessel has an excellent chance of surviving undamaged or with minor damage if properly secured.

RESPONSIBILITY

The HWM or the Dock Master cannot and will not assume responsibility for the safety of your vessel.

VESSEL OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

You must secure your own vessel or arrange for a qualified friend, neighbor or boat buddy, if you are out of town. Get to know your dock mates; exchange telephone numbers and agree to help each other. Rehearse your mooring plan with everyone who may be involved. Buy your extra lines, chafe gear and fenders **NOW** so you will be prepared. A hurricane can develop very quickly.

HURRICANE PREPARATION

1. Secure storm lines, double or triple all line.
2. Remove furling jibs. These can impose a severe threat to surrounding vessels in the event of heavy winds and may be removed by other boat owners if you do not stow them yourself.
3. Lash sail covers, or remove sails completely.
4. Lower Bimini, antennas, radar, outriggers and lash or take ashore.
5. Remove shore power, telephone line cord and all deck gear; stow or take ashore.
6. Shut off all lines to fuel, propane, alcohol tanks, etc.
7. Fill water tanks, close valves and close all seacocks.
8. Charge batteries and shut off everything except the automatic bilge pump switch.
9. Secure or remove all articles inside vessel.
10. Remove or plug all ventilation cowls and close deck plates.
11. Observe the vessel from the dock to be sure all lines are properly tied and will not slip off cleats and pilings. Secure hull side fenders for protection.
12. Remove document papers from vessel. These may be needed in the event of a possible insurance claim.
13. Do not stay aboard.
14. Remove refrigerated items due to possible power loss.

SMALL VESSEL STORAGE

1. Inflatable and small boats must leave the marina. Make prior arrangements for storm storage. Do not leave them in the water or on your boat.

THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE! MAKE YOUR PLANS TODAY!!

HURRICANE CHECK LIST

- 1. Canvas removed
 - A. Bimini
 - B. Fly Bridge cover
 - C. Windshield cover
 - D. All other canvas (minimize wind)
- 2. Remove sails, main and jib
- 3. Dock boxes secured and locked
- 4. Remove all flags and flagstaffs
- 5. Remove and store coolers
- 6. Remove and store loose deck furniture
- 7. Remove and store cushions
- 8. Remove and store life rings
- 9. Remove and store extra anchors
- 10. Remove and store any rail mounted equipment
- 11. Remove and store bicycles
- 12. Remove and store dingy off site
- 13. Remove and store any fenders not used
- 14. Remove and store any satellite dishes
- 15. Remove and store any fishing equipment
- 16. Secure or remove all halyards
- 17. Use Adequate size lines (see attached chart)
- 18. Remove and store water hoses
- 19. Disconnect Shore Power and store cord
- 20. Store any loose items: poles, gaff hooks, scrub brushes etc.
- 21. Local contact: (if your will not be available during storm)

Name _____
Phone _____

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Phone _____