



Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 17-009, Hurricane Conditions

April 19, 2017

Hurricane Port Condition Requirements

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

Hurricane Port 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 (or no more than two high for hazardous materials), 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 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 hazards must be secured in a safe manner away from waterfront areas.
 - Facilities will continue to implement container stacking protocol to be complete by the setting of Port Condition Yankee.
 - Containers must not exceed four tiers unless previously approved by the COTP.
 - Containers carrying hazardous materials may not exceed two tiers.
 - NOTE: See MSIB 12-013 on Homeport under the Container Inspection section for container stacking lessons learned from the 2012 Hurricane Season.
 - All oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons must prepare to depart the port 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 SWAT via conference call.

Hurricane Port Condition Yankee:

- Sustained gale force winds are expected to arrive within twenty-four hours.
 - 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 are authorized. Moving cargo onto the port or vessel loading/discharging operations are not authorized unless specifically cleared 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 COTP.
 - Anticipate that 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 SWAT via conference call.

Hurricane Port Condition Zulu:

- Sustained gale force winds are expected within twelve hours.
 - All affected port waterfront operations are suspended except for final preparations previously permitted by the COTP as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the ports and facilities.
 - All vessels shall have departed the ports and anchorages unless otherwise authorized by the COTP.
 - Coast Guard Port Survey Teams will conduct final port assessments.
 - Ports and waterfront facilities shall 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 survey assessments.
 - Aids to navigation verification.
 - Status and condition of drawbridges.
 - Re-establishment of required port security measures in accordance with respective facility security plans.

- Safety and/or security personnel wishing to remain in port or at a facility shall follow applicable port and facility policies and procedures and advise the COTP of their intentions.
- The COTP will convene the SWAT via conference call.

Post-Hurricane Conditions

- Once Hurricane Port Condition Zulu has been set, affected Ports will remain closed until the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the COTP:
 - Ports should begin to conduct damage assessments. Movement within the port landside is authorized when deemed safe, provided appropriate security measures are in place in accordance with MTSA requirements. Designated Coast Guard Port Survey Team members must notify the COTP upon determination that the port is physically/structurally safe to recommence operations.
 - Coast Guard Ports and Waterways Survey teams will conduct preliminary assessments in the ports and waterways as soon as weather conditions permit. Waterway surveys should be conducted in conjunction with the local pilots association.
 - Facilities may not receive cargo or passengers until specifically authorized by the COTP. At a minimum, the COTP must be advised by the Facility Security Officer that facility security plans are fully implemented and Customs and Border Protection is prepared to process passengers/cargo, as applicable, and Coast Guard Port Survey Teams have verified that security measures are in place.
 - Bridge operations will remain coordinated through respective Emergency Operation Centers until the COTP determines that resumption of bridge operations is safe.
 - The safety zone established around the COTP Miami zone during the event will remain in effect until rescinded. No vessel movement or shoreside port operations will be authorized without the express permission of the COTP. Anticipate the potential for draft and other restrictions based upon the assessment of waterways and aids to navigation surveys.
- 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/Miami>.
- Additional pre and post-hurricane information will be distributed by the COTP via MSIB and direct contact with Coast Guard Port Survey Teams and Maritime Transportation System Recovery Unit members.

Please direct any questions regarding this MSIB to Sector Miami’s Waterways Management Division at (305) 535-4317 or Command Center at (305) 535-4472.



M. M. Dean
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Miami