

Safety Message for June 2022

June officially begins the Hurricane Season. The warmer temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico are ideal for the formation of hurricanes, so it is best to get ready ahead of time.

Be prepared for high winds and flying debris. High water levels from flooding due to rain or high tides are probable. Ensure adequate mooring arrangements have been made, especially in regard to the quantity and quality of mooring lines and strength of bollards. Clear decks of any missile hazards, potential pollution hazards, and flammable materials. Mariners are reminded that movable bridges may not be operating with high-sustained winds. All in all, hurricanes present an operational difficulties and potential danger to vessels, vessel personnel and those ashore.

Preplanning includes a review of the Company's Hurricane Preparedness Plans that are specific to the places your vessels operate. Note that the U.S. Coast Guard issues guidance that are both specific to a location and are somewhat generic to the area. For example, Sector New Orleans issues a Maritime Hurricane Contingency Port Plan that looks at the Lower Mississippi River in general but has specific rules for certain waterways.

Among other things, the Plan lists targeted times before the landfall of a named storm. They are: •WHISKEY: Gale force winds are predicted at Southwest Pass in 72 hours. • X-RAY: Gale force winds are predicted at Southwest Pass in 48 hours. • YANKEE: Gale force winds are predicted at Southwest Pass in 24 hours. This condition is also used after the storm passes, because vessel traffic control measures may still be in effect. • ZULU: Gale force winds are predicted at Southwest Pass in 12 hours.

Each condition requires that certain actions to be taken by vessels within the Captain of the Port Zone. For example, while the Port may be open to traffic during Condition X-RAY, when Condition YANKEE is in effect, traffic control measures are to be expected. This effects harbor tug operations in various ways. You should be familiar with the Plan. It is on the boat's computers in HelmCONNECT and it is also found at the U.S. Coast Guard's Homeport website at:

[https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/1861/MHCPP%20\(2022\).pdf](https://homeport.uscg.mil/Lists/Content/Attachments/1861/MHCPP%20(2022).pdf).

Sector Mobile and Sector Jacksonville have similar Plans and they are found on the U.S. Coast Guard's Homeport website as well. They are also found on your boat's computer in HelmCONNECT along with the Company's Hurricane Preparedness Plans.