



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 26-05

Date: 6/1/2026

Time: 0800

Severe Weather Safety Planning For Vessels and Facilities

The 2026 Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1, 2026. All facilities and vessels in the Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone are encouraged to review their severe weather plans and begin preparations for the hurricane season.

Sector Houston-Galveston has five Port Conditions within our Hurricane and Severe Weather Plan. As the COTP, when severe weather approaches, I intend to issue Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) and other broadcasts declaring the Port Condition for vessels and facilities. The five Port Conditions are:

<u>Pre- Storm Condition:</u>	96 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions;
<u>Port Condition Whiskey:</u>	72 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions;
<u>Port Condition X-Ray:</u>	48 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions;
<u>Port Condition Yankee:</u>	24 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions;
<u>Port Condition Zulu:</u>	12 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions;
<u>Post-Storm Recovery:</u>	COTP will set after a storm has passed once the situation allows.

VESSELS: All commercial vessels shall follow the Heavy Weather Port Conditions listed below. Since harbors along the Gulf coast may not provide adequate safe refuge for approaching storms, I may direct all capable sea-going vessels to make timely departures from port ahead of Tropical Storm conditions, as necessary. All vessels over 500 gross tons should plan to depart unless they suffer a casualty that makes departure improbable. A **“Declaration of Intent to Remain in Port” is required for any vessel over 500 gross tons requesting to remain in port.** All smaller vessels should make plans and be prepared for port closure.

Following a storm’s passing, vessels returning to port are required to resubmit a Notice of Arrival as per 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 160, and this office will rescreen each vessel prior to reentry. Post storm, vessels may also be required to fill out the “Vessel Post Storm Self-Assessment Checklist.”

FACILITIES: All regulated commercial facilities shall follow the Heavy Weather Port Conditions listed below. It is requested that pre-storm assessments include any vessels that will be allowed to remain at the facility during a storm. All containers, storage tanks, pallets, and other items/equipment that could create a risk/hazard in a high wind environment shall be secured, in accordance with regulations, industry standards, and best practices.

Post storm, waterfront facilities will be required to report conditions of their docks, berths, wharves, and pier as soon as practical using the “Facility Post Storm Self-Assessment Checklist”.

All documents (checklists, forms, etc) mentioned in this MSIB can be requested from Sector Houston-Galveston’s MTSRU. Please contact Sector Houston-Galveston MTSRU via houstonmtsru@uscg.mil or the Command Center at (866) 539-8114 if you have any questions.

SUBJ: MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 26-05

Port Condition	Expected Actions
<p>PRE-STORM (96 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commercial self-propelled vessels >500 GT requesting to remain in port must submit “Declaration of Intent to Remain in Port.” Final approval to remain in port will be issued by the COTP.
<p>WHISKEY (72 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate vessel and facility severe weather plans. - Waterfront facilities must complete and submit Pre-Storm Checklist (via digital form). - “Declaration of Intent to Remain in Port” submissions evaluated by COTP. All vessels not approved will depart. - Ocean going vessels begin making plans for departure. - Vessels will not be permitted to remain in Bolivar Anchorage if Condition Yankee is set.
<p>XRAY (48 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspend all inbound vessel transits, including to Bolivar Anchorage. - Departing orders for vessels without approval to remain in port shall commence. - Commence clearing vessels from Bolivar Anchorage. - Bunkering and lightering may be suspended. - Suspend all cargo transfers when winds reach 40mph. - Disconnect transfer hoses/arms when winds reach 50mph. - Smaller vessels, to include commercial fishing and recreational vessels, shall seek shelter in preparation for possible port closure. - All containers stored near flood-prone areas should be moved.
<p>YANKEE (24 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inland tows are to be properly moored prior to setting ZULU. - Regulated facilities shall secure or remove missile hazards, dangerous cargo, containers and/or pallet stacks. - Regulated facilities shall press up storage tanks to reduce wind damage. - Reminder: Port Closure (ZULU) may be set 24 hours ahead of expected arrival of tropical storm conditions.
<p>ZULU (12 hours prior to arrival of tropical storm conditions):</p>	<p>Port Closed to all transits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All cargo, bunkering, and lightering operations are suspended unless specifically authorized by the COTP. - All vessels greater than 500 gross tons approved to remain in port must; have engines and anchors immediately available for use, implement preapproved mooring arrangements, and maintain a continuous listening on VHF Channel 16.



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