

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Dry or Loft Storage and Wet Slip Boat Owners' Responsibilities

The order of priority when preparing Fairhope Yacht Club Harbor for a hurricane is (1) Protect human life, (2) Seek to prevent or minimize personal injury, (3) Reduce the exposure of property to damage, (4) Minimize damage to property that cannot be relocated and (5) Seek to restore normal operations as quickly as possible. Be aware that this Plan assumes a direct hit (the eye passing directly over or within 25 miles of the harbor) and may work only for lower category hurricanes. A direct hit by a Category II or stronger storm could result in major damage to the boats and harbor facilities. This Plan is designed to limit the damage to the harbor and boats. For a major storm this Plan may or may not be adequate.

Preseason:

- Review your boat liability insurance policy. The boat owner can be liable for damages caused by his/her boat.
- Devise a plan for securement or evacuation of your boat(s).
- Consider an alternate contact in the event of your absence during storm preparation, and inform them of your plan.
- Keep an adequate inventory of storm gear aboard and maintain dock and anchor lines of proper size and condition.

48-24 Hours to Landfall:

Dry and Loft Storage Boat Owners

- Evacuation of your boat to safety is strongly advised. If you are not evacuating your boat, properly secure your boat. The Harbor Committee strongly advises against leaving boats in dry or loft storage during a storm.

Wet Slip Boat Owners

- Evacuation of your boat to safe anchorage or to haul out is advised.
- If not evacuating, properly secure your boat. Boats left docked in the harbor should have extra lines, fendering and chafing gear. Recommendations for securing a boat are posted at the Club and on page 2 of this document.
- Once your boat is secured, leave it and don't return once the wind and waves are up. Under NO circumstances should you ride the hurricane out on your boat.

Act soon ... Weather conditions may deteriorate quickly.

24-0 Hours to Landfall

Dry and Loft Storage and Wet Slip Boat Owners

- Have completed all storm preparation efforts for your boat.
- Stay clear of the harbor, unless you are a member of the Harbor Hurricane Response Team.

LandFall

Dry and Loft Storage Boat Owners and Wet Slip Boat Owners

- Remain in safe shelter; Wet slip boat owners should not be aboard in a Hurricane! One of the most dangerous mistakes a skipper can make is to stay aboard during a hurricane. There is little, if anything, a skipper can do to save a boat when winds are blowing 100 mph, tides are surging, and visibility is only a few feet.

After the Storm:

Dry Storage Boat Owners and Wet Slip Boat Owners

- Remain clear of the harbor until a notice to safely re-enter has been given.
- Review insurance policy and prepare to evaluate and report damages to insurance agency.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECURING YOUR BOAT DURING A STORM

The following is **only a recommendation** on securing your boat during a storm. The Fairhope Yacht Club Harbor Committee, nor any officer, director or assign of Fairhope Yacht Club assumes any responsibility for the safety of any boat on FYC premises. As a boat owner, it is your responsibility to know the proper and safest manner in which to secure your boat during a storm.

Doubling the Lines

Boat owners should double the dock lines going one size larger for the second set of lines, and double fore and aft spring lines.

Chafing Gear:

The single most critical failure point in dock lines is chafing. A recommended chafing gear system is to double neoprene hose (e.g. appropriate size three strand nylon, inside thick wall neoprene, both inside a second neoprene hose). This or a similar system should be used at all chafe points.

Storm Surge Tide and Flooding:

Dock and spring lines should be secured to accommodate a tide surge. Self adjusting lines should not be used for hurricane conditions. Dock lines should be secured directly to the pilings.

Stripping the Boat:

All necessary steps should be taken to reduce windage. Before leaving the boat, strip all sails including self-furling jibs and running rigging, booms and moveable deck equipment, ventilators, anchors, life rings, and other loose gear which could cause windage. Secure all radio antennas. Secure hatches and tape them shut. Remove all loose gear from cabinets and storage bins, e.g. binoculars, and secure cabinet doors.

Cleats, Winches and Chocks:

In designing your storm securing system, assess the structural attachment of the primary cleats, winches and chocks on the boat. These high load stress points should have substantial backing plates and adequate bolt size. If mooring, the primary jib winches can be used to reduce the loading on the primary mooring cleats.

BOAT OWNERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO RIDE OUT THE STORM ON BOARD THEIR BOAT WHILE DOCKED IN THE HARBOR OR ANCHORED IN THE BAY.