

Severe weather and hurricane plan

Because severe weather may occur at anytime, harbor tenants must ensure their vessel is always appropriately prepared and secured to handle the potential onslaught of high winds, high tides, heavy rains, or all three at once.

In the event of an approaching tropical system, harbor tenants are reminded to monitor the National Weather Service and make prudent decisions regarding the evacuation of their boat from the harbor. Boaters are reminded that the Harbor Staff has several responsibilities during the approach of a tropical system and, therefore, cannot dedicate themselves to managing the safety of any single vessel. Harbor tenants must ensure they have planned to care for their vessel themselves or that they are in contract with someone who will.

In the event a tropical system will raise the water level in the harbor by at least four feet, and/or based on the advice of the Harrison County Civil Defense, the harbor office may announce that all harbor tenants are to seek safer dockage for their vessels. This announcement will be prominently posted and updated on the harbor's web page at <http://www.gulfport-ms.gov/harbor>.

Power and potable water service to all slips will be completely shut down when the sea-water level reaches a point where it is overtaking the main piers throughout the harbor. It is important to ensure all vessel batteries are fully charged before this takes place.

The fuel dock will be closed when any rise in sea-level reaches the fuel transfer pipes under the fuel dock pier. Because it is unknown when this may take place, boaters are reminded to keep sufficient fuel onboard their vessels before a storm approaches so that the vessel may be moved to safer harbor when needed.

Remember, the bridges between the Sound and the bays close early based on wind speed. If you are going to relocate your boat to points beyond (north of) those bridges, please pay special attention to the advisories from the state, county, and cities regarding same.

Vehicle access to the harbor will be terminated when the winds and/or water levels become unsafe. It is therefore necessary for all harbor tenants to plan accordingly and not wait until the last minute to make a decision on the safety of themselves and their vessel.

For everyone's safety, foot traffic on the piers will be extremely restricted and/or prohibited at any point where sea water rises more than five inches above the main piers.

Harbor tenants who fail to abide by any announcements to remove their vessel from the harbor will assume any and all liability and responsibility for said vessel and any damage it receives or any damage it may cause to city property as a result of the storm's impact on the harbor.