



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

4200 OCEAN STREET
MAYPORT, FL 32233

Phone: 904-564-7518

Fax: 904-564-7519

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 17-09

May 20, 2009

SET HURRICANE CONDITION FOUR IN THE PORTS OF NORTHEAST AND EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA

Effective June 1, Hurricane Condition Four is set in the ports of Northeast and East Central Florida. Although it has been more than 30 years since a hurricane has had a major impact on the Port of Jacksonville and the surrounding areas, we must remain alert and prepared for the worst-case scenario. Hurricanes are nature's most destructive storms and provide some of the most devastating effects in terms of loss of life and damage/destruction to property. This year, NOAA forecasters are predicting a normal to above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. For 2009, the outlook indicates a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 tropical storms, including six to nine storms becoming hurricanes. For more in depth information please visit the National Hurricane Center website at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

Marine interests should be aware that there are no "safe havens" identified within the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral for a vessel to safely survive hurricane force winds or storm surges without creating a threat to the safety of the port and public welfare. The safest condition for the port during the arrival of a hurricane is when the inventory of vessels is kept at a minimum. COTP policy directs vessel owners/operators and agents to make every attempt to put vessels greater than 500 tons to sea in the event a hurricane or tropical storm threatens the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, or Canaveral.

In the event that a commercial oceangoing vessel or oceangoing barge over 500 gross does not intend to put to sea, the person in charge of the vessel must submit a **Remain in Port Request** to the COTP. The RIP request form can be obtained from the Port Heavy Weather Plan Sector which can be found on the Jacksonville HOMEPORT internet site at <http://homeport.uscg.mil>, (the Plan is located under the Local Contingency Plans tab in the Safety and Security section). Vessels allowed to remain in the port must have the decks clear of any missile hazards, potential pollution hazards, and flammable materials. All persons in charge must ensure hatches are secured for heavy weather. **No vessels will be allowed to remain at facilities which are within one half mile of a bridge.**

For additional information please call Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville at (904) 564 7513.

P. F. THOMAS
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Jacksonville, FL