



## **Hurricane Preparation for boats**

72 Hrs. prior to a hurricane coming, these steps should be taken to secure a vessel!!!

The key to protecting your boat from hurricanes or any severe threatening weather is planning, preparation, and timely action. The following precautions and check lists are meant as guides only. Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment, the severe weather conditions likely to occur in that region and the characteristics of safe havens and/or plans for protection. The following preparation and precautionary suggestions are issued as guidelines to be used by the marine community. We also recommend annual trail-runs of your plan to ensure they are sufficient. While these suggestions may not be applicable to everyone in all instances, it is hoped that common sense and good judgment will prevail. Should even one of the suggestions save a life, prevent an injury, or reduce property damage, our purpose will have been served.

**1. Move vessel to a safe location or tie down.** If the boat remains in the marina, tie your boat as tight as possible to the **floating** dock but **do not** tie to wood pilings, because they are wood pilings and will not hold. We have floating docks and the idea is for the boat to move *with* the dock system. Secure your vessel early or you may not be able to do it later.

- Lines should be doubled and crisscrossed
- If you have 2 lines on one cleat on the boat, try to tie each line to a different cleats on the dock (This way if a cleat on the dock fails, at least one line is still secure)
- Use new or nearly new lines that are at least 1/4" larger than you normally use, or use the following guide:

1/2" line for boats up to 25'      5/8" line for boats 25' to 34'  
3/4" to 1' for boats over 34'

**2. Place chafing material on all lines in the following places:**

- At the point the line touches the boat & at the point where two lines are crossing

**3. Secure Everything!** Those pretty coiled up lines ends laying on the dock can become a lethal whipping "like steel" object in 100 MPH winds. **Anything loose is to be stored.**

**4. Secure power cords or remove them** (power may be off during and after the storm).

**5. Check batteries to be sure they are fully charged and bilge pumps are functioning properly and automatically and are sufficient to run throughout the storm.**

**6. Put out all fenders you can.** Place as many fenders as possible between your boat and the finger pier. Then put a couple extra outboard between yourself and the boat next to you. Protect the stern either by securing fenders from the boat or by attaching fenders

*Mystic Pointe Marina Association, Inc.*

3575 Mystic Pointe Drive, Aventura, Florida 33180 \* Phone: (305)682-8777 \* Fax:(305)682-0078



to the dock behind the boat.

**7. Check to be sure your insurance coverage is sufficient and up to date.**

**8. Secure all hatches, life rafts, Inflatable, personal water craft, dock boxes, etc.**

Dock boxes should be bolted to dock so is not to float away and insure the top is securely fastened. Tape all windows and hatches.

**9. Under no circumstances should you remain on your vessel during the storm.** Out staff will be doing everything possible to restrict damage but when it gets beyond a prudent safety point I will take them off the dock until it again seems safe. (The calm during, the eye is not safe).

**10. Fill all fuel and water tanks beforehand!** This provides extra weight and helps to stabilize the boat's movements. Safe water may not be available for some time. Make sure your bilges are clean and cockpit drains are free and clear.

**11. Charge all batteries/Flashing/Radios, etc.**

**12. V.H.F. may be the best communication link available for a while!**

**13. Secure, remove and store all canvas, bimini tops, isinglass, flybridge enclosures, curtains, seat cushions, life rings, hoses, T.V. & phone lines, matting and any other items that could be blown in the winds.**

**14. Remove all electronics and tape over holes and wire ends.**

**15. Remove all loose items from cockpits, flybridges, decks and docks.** This includes: seat cushions, step boxes, hoses, chairs, coolers, life rings, dinghies, jet skis and plants. **If it isn't permanently attached – put it away.**

**16. Tape or tie shut all doors on electronic boxes, storage compartments and grill on after deck.**

**17. Prevent lines from contact points with rubber or other materials to prevent breaking.**

**18. Make sure boats around you are secure and anything loose on docks whether it is not to be secured.**

**If you need assistance, contact the Marina staff well ahead of the storm, as they are going to be very busy preparing the Marina for the storm.**

*Mystic Pointe Marina Association, Inc.*

3575 Mystic Pointe Drive, Aventura, Florida 33180 \* Phone: (305)682-8777 \* Fax:(305)682-0078