



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

06-20

June 5, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.

Tropical Storm Cristobal SET PORT CONDITION XRAY

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Tropical Storm Cristobal continues to reflect a 20-40% chance of tropical storm force winds affecting the MSU Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone.

Therefore, effective at 2:00 P.M. CDT, June 5, 2020, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has set **Port Condition XRAY** for the ports of Beaumont, TX; Port Arthur, TX; Orange, TX; Sabine, TX; and Lake Charles, LA including all tributaries and connecting waterways. Tropical storm force winds from **Tropical Storm Cristobal** could make landfall along the Texas/Louisiana coast with **within 48 hours**. The following guidance applies:

1. Cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach gale force (34 kts / 39 mph).
2. Manned, self-propelled, oceangoing vessels moored or at anchor should be prepared to get underway immediately. The COTP should be notified of all unmanned or “dead” vessels within the COTP Zone.
3. Commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons and all seagoing tugs and barges intending to remain in port must immediately notify the Captain of the Port of their intentions and submit a Remaining In Port Checklist to the Captain of the Port for approval.

The COTP is NOT restricting vessel movements or port operations at this time. All stakeholders are advised to monitor weather conditions closely and be prepared to suspend operations, have deep draft ships depart for sea and/or notify the COTP if remaining in port is desired.

A guide entitled “Hurricane Information for the Maritime Industry” is available to assist in planning for hurricane season. Remaining In Port Checklists are available from the Vessel Traffic Service website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsportarthur/>, HOMEPORT (<http://homeport.uscg.mil>) or by calling the VTS Watch Supervisor at (409) 719-5070. Email completed forms to msupa-mtsru@uscg.mil (both Sabine-Neches and Calcasieu Waterways).

To ensure the safety of your vessel and crew, now is the time to plan. Vessels are advised to seek safe harbor in the northern reaches of the waterway. Survey places to moor or anchor to safely ride out a tropical storm or hurricane, and make available the necessary heavy weather mooring gear. **Vessels shall not moor in locations that impede the safe transit of vessels in the channel.** By regulation, vessels intending to moor at 33 CFR 105 facilities must have an agreed upon security arrangement with the facility prior to the vessels mooring.

The Coast Guard will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins if it is determined necessary to restrict port operations or set Port Condition ZULU (closure of the port).

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsportarthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 723-6500 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 912-0073.



J. M. TWOMEY
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port