



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

12-20

August 23, 2020

Tropical Storms Marco and Laura PORT CONDITION XRAY – Update 1

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Tropical Storm Marco indicates it has shifted well to the east and is predicted to make landfall in eastern Louisiana but then drift westward towards southeast Texas / southwest Louisiana area in a diminished state. Tropical Storm Laura, however, is tracking further west and is currently predicted to make landfall as a hurricane along the western Louisiana coastline later in the week.

Therefore, in order to maintain readiness for changes to each storm's predicted track and still expected impacts later in the week, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) will **remain at 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 Marco are still expected to impact the southeast Texas/southwest Louisiana coasts with **within 48 hours** with a possibility of winds exceeding 50-knots. Tropical storm force winds from Tropical Storm Laura are expected later in the week. The following guidance applies:

1. No areas in the Port Arthur COTP Zone are considered "safe havens."
2. Cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach gale force (34 kts / 39 mph).
3. Manned, self-propelled, oceangoing vessels moored or at anchor should be prepared to get underway. The COTP should be notified of all unmanned or "dead" vessels within the COTP Zone.
4. 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. Vessels that have submitted a Remaining In Port Checklist for TS Marco need not submit a separate notice for TS Laura but must report any changes to the original submission.

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.

The Coast Guard will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins updating Port Conditions as needed.

A guide entitled "Severe Weather Planning Information for Maritime Stakeholders" 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.

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.



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Captain of the Port