



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

13-20

August 25, 2020

Hurricane Laura

SET PORT CONDITION YANKEE

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Hurricane Laura indicates its track will directly impact the southeast Texas / southwest Louisiana coasts. Hurricane Laura is expected to strengthen to potentially Category 3 as it crosses the Gulf of Mexico.

Therefore, effective at 4:00 P.M. CDT, August 25, 2020, the Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has set **Port Condition YANKEE** 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 or greater from **Hurricane Laura** are expected to impact the southeast Texas/southwest Louisiana coasts with **within 24 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. 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. 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.
4. Commercial vessels, **including fishing vessels**, less than 500 gross tons should plan to seek shelter north of the Neches River Intersection on the Sabine-Neches Waterway and north of the Intracoastal Waterway on the Calcasieu River.
5. Dredges should begin removing equipment from the waterway and seeking sheltered moorings. Dredging equipment should be moored and secured no closer than ½ mile from any bridge. All pipeline should be adequately secured or sunk to prevent it breaking loose and becoming a hazard to navigation. Notify VTS Port Arthur or the COTP to report the location of equipment and pipeline.

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/vtspportarthur/>, 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/vtspportarthur/>. 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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M. A. WIKE
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port