



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

31-20

September 20, 2020

Tropical Storm Beta

SET PORT CONDITION ZULU

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Tropical Storm Beta indicates a 40-60% chance of tropical storm force winds affecting the MSU Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone within 12-hours. Further, due to the storm's characteristics, the southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana coasts could see a coastal storm surge of 4-6 feet.

Therefore, effective at 3:00 P.M. CDT, September 20, 2020, the Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has **set Port Condition ZULU** 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 Beta** could impact the Texas/Louisiana coast with **within 12 hours**.

The following guidance applies:

1. Cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach gale force (34 kts / 39 mph).
2. All vessel movements within the affected waterways are prohibited with the following exceptions:
 - Fleet boats may transit light boat in the vicinity of their fleets to conduct necessary safety checks on fleets and/or respond to emergencies without contacting the Vessel Traffic Center prior to movement.
 - Inland traffic on the Calcasieu River north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is permitted.
 - Inland traffic on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is permitted east of Orange, TX (Mile Marker 265).
 - Other vessel movements occurring on protected inland waters may be authorized on a case-by-case basis. Requests for deviation from requirements for Port Condition ZULU should be directed to Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur for consideration.
 - Except in an emergency or to prevent/mitigate a potentially hazardous condition, all vessels shall contact VTS prior to movement. If a vessel moves due to an emergency, notify the VTS as soon as practicable.

Questions may be directed as follows:

1. For the Sabine-Neches Waterway: (409) 719-5070 or
“Port Arthur Traffic” on VHF-FM 01A / 65A
MSU Port Arthur (409)719-1606 or (409) 284-5767
2. For the Calcasieu Waterway: (337) 912-0073

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

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