



## Marine Safety Information Bulletin

08-21

August 26, 2021

### Tropical Depression 9 SET PORT CONDITION WHISKEY

The National Weather Service (NWS) predicts that Tropical Depression 9 will develop into a tropical cyclone in the next 24-hours and further indicates a 50-80% chance of tropical storm force winds affecting the MSU Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone within 72-hours. NWS also advises that, depending on landfall location, tides could run 3-feet above normal by Sunday afternoon.

Therefore, **effective at 7:00 P.M. CDT, August 26, 2021**, the Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has **set Port Condition WHISKEY** 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 Depression 9 are projected to make landfall along the Texas/Louisiana coast with **within 72 hours**.

While the COTP is increasing readiness for heavy weather, ports are currently open to all commercial traffic and cargo operations may continue. Maritime interests should monitor the storm track closely and prepare for the setting of Port Condition X-RAY.

All vessels entering and departing the COTP Zone Port Arthur are reminded to update their Notice of Arrival with any changes to their arrival or departure information (33 Code of Federal Regulations 160.208, 33 CFR 160.212). 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. Oceangoing vessels and inland tows bound for ports within the MSU Port Arthur COTP zone are advised to seek an alternate destination. Inland tows must identify a facility/fleeting area that will support a safe mooring for the duration of heavy weather.
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.

5. Vessels bound for the affected ports which are unable to depart prior to the closing of the port are advised to seek an alternate destination.
6. Smaller commercial vessels not restricted by draft, should seek shelter outside the deep draft shipping channels and turning area. 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.

Dredges should make plans to remove equipment from the waterway and for sheltered moorings. Dredge 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.

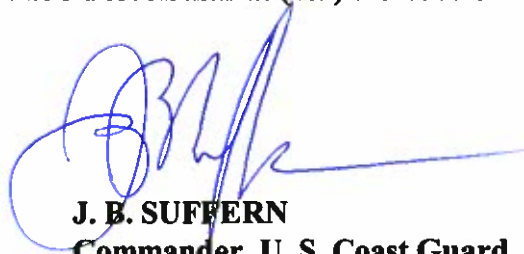
7. Inland operators are advised that at Port Condition X-RAY, barges located on the Calcasieu River shall not be permitted to remain in port from Mile Marker 18 south to the Cameron Jetties.

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 being considered.

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. A guide entitled "Severe Weather Planning Information for Maritime Stakeholders" is also available in HOMEPORT to assist in planning for storms. Email completed forms to [msupa-mtsru@uscg.mil](mailto:msupa-mtsru@uscg.mil) (both Sabine-Neches and Calcasieu Waterways).

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/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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Captain of the Port, Acting