



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

29-20

September 19, 2020

Tropical Storm Beta

SET PORT CONDITION XRAY

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Tropical Storm Beta indicates a 50% chance of tropical storm force winds affecting the MSU Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone within 48-hours. Forecasts continue to predict that southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana coasts could see a coastal storm surge of 4-6 feet.

Therefore, effective at 8:00 A.M. CDT, September 19, 2020, the 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 Beta** 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 ship” 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.
 - If a Remaining in Port Checklist was submitted for Tropical Storm Marco/Hurricane Laura and the submitted information has not changed, Remaining in Port notifications may state that the Checklist submitted on (date) has not changed – no new checklist will be required.
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. 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.
6. 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 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).

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