



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

10-20

August 22, 2020

Tropical Storm Marco

SET PORT CONDITION WHISKEY

The National Weather Service (NWS) predicts that tropical storm force winds (34 kts/39 mph) from Tropical Storm Marco could make landfall along the Texas/Louisiana coast with **within 72 hours**.

Therefore, effective at **7:00 AM CDT, August 22, 2020**, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has set **Port Condition WHISKEY** for the ports of Beaumont, TX, Port Arthur, TX, Orange, TX and Lake Charles, LA including all tributaries and connecting waterways. Tropical storm force winds from Tropical Storm Marco are expected to make landfall along the Texas / Louisiana coast **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. 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. 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.
4. 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.

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/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 HOMEPORTR website <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS Port Arthur website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsportarthur/>. If you have any questions, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 723-6500 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 912-0073.



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