



## Marine Safety Information Bulletin

11-20

August 22, 2020

### **Tropical Storm Marco SET PORT CONDITION XRAY**

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) advisory for Tropical Storm Marco indicates it will reach hurricane force tonight and it continues to track towards the southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana coasts.

Therefore, effective at 8:00 P.M. CDT, August 22, 2020, the Coast Guard 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 Marco** are expected to impact the southeast Texas/southwest Louisiana coasts with **within 48 hours**. The following guidance applies:

1. No areas in the Port Arthur COTP Zone are considered “safe havens.”
2. Cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach gale force (34 kts / 39 mph).
3. 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.
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. Commercial vessels, **including fishing vessels**, less than 500 gross tons should plan to seek north of the Neches River Intersection on the Sabine-Neches Waterway and north of the Intracoastal Waterway on the Calcasieu River.
6. 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.

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.

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](mailto: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.



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