



POB eBROADCAST

The Maryland Port Administration
Baltimore ~ Maryland

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Source: MPA Safety & Risk Management Department

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RE: Maryland Port Administration
Hurricane Advisory
MARTIME CONDITION WHISKEY

The U.S. Coast Guard has established Maritime Condition **WHISKEY** in anticipation of gale force winds in the Baltimore area within **72 hours**. The maritime community is advised to review its hurricane preparedness procedures and monitor weather broadcasts.

The following actions are necessary in preparation for heavy weather:

1. Operations and cargo movement remain normal.
2. Review individual hurricane preparedness plans. The MPA's Hurricane Preparedness Plan and/or other applicable plans may be found on www.marylandports.com.
3. MPA prepares to initiate weather preparedness work orders.
4. Vessels arrive and depart as normal.
5. Vessels that want to remain moored at MPA facilities must adhere to the following:
 - a) Oceangoing and barges greater than 500 gross tons, must seek COTP approval and have a COTP verification number for remaining in Port. This requires submission of a written request to COTP and MPA Operations, using the USCG's **Commercial Vessel Authorization Checklist/Survey**.
 - b) Any vessel less than 500 gross tons must complete the USCG's Commercial Vessel Authorization Checklist/Survey, submit to MPA, and request permission from the MPA to remain in port. The Director of Operations or designee for MPA will review the request and may grant permission to the vessel, depending on operational considerations. A person of authority who can legally bind the corporation or entity must sign a Right of Entry.
 - c) Vessels with COTP pre-approval to remain in port should verify that the approved plan remains valid and notify the COTP of their intentions. If any of these vessels are moored at an MPA facility, MPA Ops must be notified and will consider giving permission for a vessel to remain at its berths.

- d) The MPA may allow vessels to stay at its berths under any maritime condition. For commercial oceangoing vessels and barges greater than 500 gross tons, permission must be granted by the COTP Baltimore before MPA will allow a vessel to remain at its berths. However, the COTP Baltimore has ultimate authority to direct vessel movements and usually orders vessels greater than 500 gross tons to anchorage or to sea if conditions permit. Advanced planning and timely coordination with the MPA and the COTP will be critical in determining the safest course of action for each vessel.
- e) Vessels asking permission to be moored an MPA owned facility during a hurricane must notify the COTP Baltimore and the MPA by submitting a **Commercial Vessel Authorization Checklist/Survey**. Vessels electing to remain at anchorage in Baltimore Harbor or Chesapeake Bay must notify the COTP Baltimore. These arrangements must be confirmed when maritime condition YANKEE has been set or sooner. **Recommended Precautionary Measures For Ships** and **Recommended Precautionary Measures for Barges** remaining moored or anchored in port are included in the COTP Upper Chesapeake Bay Hurricane Contingency Plan. Also owners of vessels and barges should review the **Hurricane Prep Checklist for Ships and Barges**. These checklists/surveys/forms can be found in U.S.C.G Hurricane Contingency Plan.

<http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>

Click Port Directory, then under Safety & Security Section, click COTP Orders-Local Contingency Plans, then click Upper Chesapeake Maritime Hurricane Contingency Plan 2009.

- f) For commercial oceangoing vessels and barges greater than 500 gross tons requesting permission to stay at an MPA berth, the MPA requires that the vessel requests permission in writing and submits a completed Commercial Vessel authorization Checklist/Survey. The Director of Operations or designee for MPA will review the request and may grant permission to the vessel, depending on operational considerations. A person of authority who can legally bind the corporation or entity must sign a Right of Entry.

If there are any questions regarding vessel preparedness, please contact USCG (410.576.2693) or MPA Operations (410.633.1077).

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