



Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 17-012, Hurricane IRMA

Weather Advisory

Port Condition WHISKEY - 72 HOUR ALERT

Time: 0800 / Date: Wednesday, September 06, 2017

In accordance with the National Hurricane Center forecast issued at 0800 EDT on Tuesday, September 05, 2017, Hurricane IRMA has developed into an extremely dangerous Category 5 hurricane approximately 270 miles East of Antigua moving West at 14 mph with max sustained winds of 175 mph. Due to the possibility of gale force winds (39-54 mph / 34-37 kts) entering South Florida within 72 hours, the Captain of the Port (COTP) is ordering **Port Condition Whiskey to be set as follows:**

- **At 0800, Wednesday, September 06, 2017 - Port of Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach, Port of Ft. Pierce and all other terminals and facilities within Sector Miami's area of responsibility.**

Prohibited Operations: None at this time.

Current Actions:

- Waterfront facilities should be removing potential flying debris, hazardous materials and oil pollution hazards from dockside areas.
- Container stacking plans should be implemented. Container terminal operators shall reduce general cargo container stack heights to no more than two high for containers containing hazardous materials, no more than four high for all other containers, or propose alternate securing arrangements to the COTP. View MSIB 12-013 for Container Stacking Lessons Learned from Tropical Storm ISAAC, available at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/miami>.
- Manned, self-propelled, oceangoing vessels moored or at anchor should be prepared to get underway immediately, have a navigation watch set, and maintain a listening watch on Channel 16 VHF-FM. The COTP should be notified of all unmanned or "dead" vessels within the COTP Miami Zone.
- Masters, owners, operators, or agents of oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons that must remain in port during this system because of operational system problems must request and receive permission from the COTP before the setting of Port Condition X-Ray.
- Hazardous materials should be removed from areas prone to flooding.
- All practicable and reasonable measures should be taken to ensure maximum stability on all vessels.
- Facility operators should ensure the open areas of their docks, wharves, and piers are cleared of all missile hazards.

- Facility operators should notify the COTP of any labeled dangerous cargo which must remain in open areas by reason of insufficient shed space or stowage regulations. Items such as drums should be banded on pallets or laid horizontally with secure dunnage.
- The COTP will conduct preliminary checks to uncover any unsafe conditions in port areas, especially in vulnerable areas. Marine and port interests should conduct preliminary checks of their own and advise the COTP of any circumstances that cannot be corrected within 24 hours.
- Oceangoing commercial vessels completing cargo-handling or passenger operations should be prepared depart the port as soon as possible and seek calm waters elsewhere if deemed necessary in future port conditions.
- Vessels transporting oil or certain hazardous materials may be restricted in their operations or denied entry into port by the COTP if deemed necessary in future port conditions.
- The COTP will consider the disposition of any ships in the port without electrical power or otherwise restricted in the ability to maneuver.
- All small craft that can be hauled out or placed on trailers should be secure. All other small craft should seek safe haven in sheltered locations.
- Marine and port interests should review expected arrivals and sailings to identify potential needs for assistance or possible disruption to port operations. Vessels entering or leaving port should ensure that sufficient tug assistance has been arranged, as well as coordination with pilots and port authorities.

Anticipated Future Actions: All ports in the Miami COTP Zone should be watching this system closely and be prepared for the onset of Port Condition X-RAY, anticipated Thursday, September 07, 2017 as the track becomes more defined.

Questions regarding this MSIB or required actions should be directed to the Sector Miami Incident Management Team.

Marine Safety Information Bulletin post updates are on Homeport under Port Conditions at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/miami> under "Port Conditions".

The COTP may be reached at telephone (305) 535-4472, or via Channel 16 VHF FM Marine Radio through Coast Guard Sector Miami.



M. M. Dean
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Captain of the Port, Miami