



The Lighthouse

Prepare for hurricane season now

SSH Marina Guide

Hurricane season brings a humbling reminder that, despite our technologies, most of nature remains unpredictable.

—Diane Ackerman

The official six month hurricane season starts June 1, and runs through November 30. We all remember hurricane Ike. On September 13, 2008, there was about 6-8' of water in the parking lot. This was right about in the middle of hurricane season, but keep in mind mother nature doesn't pay attention to a calendar. We could have a hurricane in May, December, or any time in between. They are just more likely around the end of August or the first of September. Don't wait to prepare!

There's a ditty the old hands in the Caribbean still use during hurricane season:

June — Too Soon

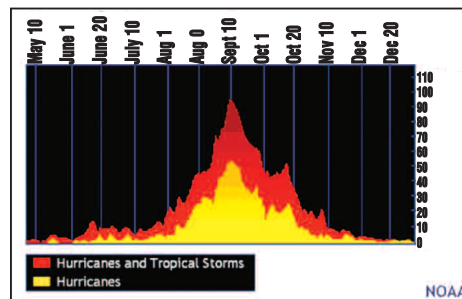
July — Standby

August — You must

September — Remember

October — All over

It illustrates the point that while hurricane season officially starts on June 1, in the North Atlantic, June is usually too soon for hurricanes to develop, and in July we most often standby waiting for the season to really get underway. When August rolls around, you must prepare, but it's really September that you will remember. If you have any doubt as to the accuracy of the rhyme, take a look at the NOAA statistics for the frequency of storms by date. While deadly hurricanes can and do occur anytime dur-



ing the official season, the peak season has historically fallen right around September 10.

Before the storm

A great website to visit is Boat/US' hurricane resource center: www.boat-us.com/hurricanes/. This site has lots of good information including a preparation worksheet and guide, what to do after a strike and weather links.

More insurance companies are requiring you to submit a written hurricane plan to obtain named wind-storm coverage. Make sure if you submit one of these, you have the means to actually carry out your plan, and do it if needed. It is also recommended documenting through pictures that you have carried out your plan, in case you have a claim later. Be sure you are aware of any other actions your insurance company requires.

Even if they don't require a plan, you should have one. The forms at the Boat/US site will help you with that. You should have the plan written and ready to go before June 1. Remember, hurricanes don't pay attention to schedules — they can hit earlier than June 1. Take an inventory of what is

on your boat (video is good for this) and decide ahead of time what you would leave and what you would remove from the boat in case a storm approaches. Have your insurance company contact information handy in case you need it after a storm.

Don't forget that the overall condition of your vessel is important.

Leaky shaft logs or I/O drives can sink you when the power goes out. If water is leaking into your boat, get it fixed now, no matter what the source. Bilge pumps can quickly exhaust the battery charge if they're running all the time. Your cleats, winches and chocks should be in good shape and strongly attached to the boat with proper backing plates. Be sure you have plenty of lines in good shape to double line everything. If you wait until a hurricane is in the Gulf of Mexico, you probably won't find any lines down at the marine store by the time you get there. Be sure your fuel and water tanks are topped off.

Do you have your South Shore Harbour window sticker on your vehicles? If you don't have one, you may not be allowed into the marina when you need to be. Be sure to get one from the office if you don't have one. Also, make sure you have provided the marina with an alternate contact person who can prepare your boat or assist after the storm if you're out of town.

While not boat specific, here is a great site for general hurricane facts and preparation information from

Six boat fire facts

Fire ranks number five among all boat losses according to the BoatU.S. Marine Insurance Program claims files. Dig a little deeper, and those claims also tell you the six specific areas that lead to most reported boat fires. If every boater paid attention to these six things, over a third of all fires aboard boats would be prevented.

So what are the top six ways boat fires happen, and some lessons to take home?

- 26% of fires are due to *off-the-boat* sources: Over a quarter of the time, a BoatU.S. member's boat burns when something else goes up in flames — the boat next to theirs, the marina, their garage or even a neighbor's house. It's every boater's responsibility to prevent fires, but when all else fails, having a good boat insurance policy is the last backstop.

- 20% of fires are due to *Engine Electrical*: For boats older than 25 years, old wiring harnesses take a disproportionate chunk of the blame here. A good electrical technician can put one together for you as most boats of this age had relatively simple electrical systems.

- 15% of fires are due to *other DC electrical*: The most common cause of battery-related fires is faulty installation of batteries — reversing the positive and negative cables or misconnecting them in series, when they should be in parallel. So take a picture. Label the cables. Use red finger-nail polish to mark the positive lug. By gosh do everything to hook it up

right the first time.

- 12% of fires are due to *A/C electrical*: Most A/C electrical fires start between the shore power pedestal and the boat's shorepower inlet. Inspecting the shore power cord routinely (connector ends especially) and for boats older than 10 years, inspecting or replacing the boat's shorepower inlet, could prove wise.

- 9% of fires are due to *other engine*: This one is all about when an engine overheats due to blocked raw water intake or mangled impeller, the latter of which can also happen after experiencing a grounding or running in mucky waters. Be sure to check the engine compartment after getting underway and replace the impeller every other year.

- 8% of fires are due to *batteries*: This fire fact is for the outboard folks to pay attention to. On older outboards, by far the most common cause of fires is the voltage regulator. At 10 years of age, failure rate on these important electrical components begin to climb. Once it hits 15 years old, it's time to replace.

Does your boat insurance cover boat fires? Get a free boat insurance check up and quote by calling the BoatU.S. Marine Insurance Program experts at (800) 283-2883. Or get an online quote at BoatUS.com/insurance.

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— SOUTH SHORE HARBOUR HURRICANE CHECKLIST —

1. Install storm lines and chafe gear. Double line everything.
2. Remove roller furling headsails.
3. Lash sail covers or remove sails completely.
4. Lower bimini (lash to deck or take ashore).
5. Remove tarps from dock canopies.
6. Make sure your dock box is locked, to keep the cover closed.
7. Remove shore power cords, phone line cords and shore water hose.
8. Remove all deck gear that could blow around in the storm (stow below or take ashore).
9. Dinghies must be removed from the marina.
10. Shut off all lines to fuel, propane, alcohol tanks, etc. Remove any propane tanks that are exposed outdoors.
11. Fill water tanks and close valves.
12. Close fuel tank valves and tape over vents to prevent water from blowing in.
13. Charge batteries and turn off all DC systems except automatic bilge pumps.
14. Close all seacocks except cockpit drains (make sure drain hoses are secure).
15. Secure or remove all articles inside vessel (take breakable and expensive articles ashore).

MINIMUM MOORING LINE STANDARDS

Yacht Size (Overall Length)	Primary Line Size (Diameter)	Spring Line Size (Diameter)
Up to 23 ft.	3/8"	3/8"
24 to 32 ft.	1/2"	1/2"
33 to 42 ft.	5/8"	1/2"
43 to 51 ft.	3/4"	3/4"
Over 51 ft.	1"	1"

- Use only 3 strand laid or braided nylon. No polypropylene, manila, sisal, etc.
 - Chafe gear: Neoprene water hose, polyester sleeves, sewn-on leather (not tape). Old fire hose and heavy denim work well too. Secure one end tightly with the other a bit loose, to allow line to stretch. For waterproof hose, make sure to punch some holes to allow water to enter. Nylon can actually melt from chafe.
 - Cut chafe gear at least 2-3 feet long. Nylon will stretch to 150% of its normal length under heavy stress.
 - Tip: Wash your lines once or twice a year. Dirt and salt get into the fibers and abrade the rope from inside. You can use a little laundry detergent in a bucket of cold water, or run them through your washing machine on gentle cycle. Use fabric softener in the rinse and hang up to dry, do not use a dryer. This will help your lines stay softer and last longer.
16. Remove or plug all ventilation cowls and close deck plates.
 17. Plug engine exhaust ports to keep water out.
 18. Secure and seal all hatches and companionway covers. Duct tape all seams at windows, hatches, cowlings, etc.
 19. Check to be sure all lines are tied properly and will not slip off cleats, either on the boat or the dock. Make sure chafe protection is on all wear points.
 20. Secure fenders at base of stanchions, NOT on lifelines.
 21. Remove all important documents from the boat, such as Federal documentation, insurance policy, state registrations, etc.
 22. Ensure that your shaft logs are not leaking excessively. Remember that when the power is out for a few days, the bilge pumps may exhaust your batteries.
 23. Do not stay aboard. Evacuate by a planned route.

Hurricane season

continued from page 1

NOAA <http://tinyurl.com/n7b6>.

When a hurricane is imminent

One of the best benefits of staying in South Shore Harbour is you are pretty far off the bay, and very well protected. The hotel and apartments provide a decent wind-break for most of the marina. The floating docks are nice as well, because you can tie off tightly, and not have to worry about leaving slack as you would with a fixed dock.

What type of lines should you use? Most prefer double braid nylon, because it stretches less than three strand nylon. While three strand nylon makes a great anchor rode, it does so because it can stretch up to 150% of its original length, acting as a shock absorber and keeping the anchor set. If you are tied to a floating dock, you need to keep the boat right where you tied it up, and not banging around from side to side. Be sure to move the boat away from the center dock, so it doesn't start banging up against it with high wind loads. This is especially true if you're backed into your slip and have a swim platform. Many boats sink during hurricanes because the swim platform supports are driven through the hull. Double up on every line and use chafe protection. During storms, most lines fail because they chafe through at wear points.

Weather information

Get your weather information from the internet if possible, preferably from the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov. A couple of other ones that are good include: www.wunderground.com/tropical and www.hurricane-track.com.

A good portable radio that picks up NOAA's weather stations is very helpful, especially when you don't have internet access. Your marine VHF picks these up, and Radio Shack® and others have portable units as well. Everybody should have one.

Remember: Life always comes before property. Always be safe and protect yourself. *Stuff* can always be replaced.



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**COMING
MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND — NEW
POOL AMENITIES AND RULES**



Pool Rules

- 1.) There is no lifeguard on duty. Swim at your own risk.**
- 2.) The pool is open for hotel guest and SSH Golf/Fitness/Marina Members only**
- 3.) Members are allowed to bring a maximum of 4 guests and members must be present for access**
- 4.) Members may be asked for their membership card for access to the pool**
- 5.) No glass containers, ice chests or outside containers**
- 6.) No outside food or beverage permitted**
- 7.) TABC rules dictate no alcohol may be brought in or taken out of the gated area**
- 8.) All children under the age of 12 must have adult supervision**
- 9.) Floats and rafts are not permitted. Child safety equipment is allowed.**
- 10.) No running or diving.**
- 11.) Members must bring pool towels, the hotel provides towels for registered hotel guests only**
- 12.) Please drink responsibly.**
- 13.) South Shore Harbour Resort is a smoke free property. Smoking is not allowed at the pool.**
- 14.) No pets allowed except for service animals**
- 15.) Pool opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m.**
- 16.) Failure to comply with pool rules may result in being asked to leave the premises and forfeiture of pool privileges**

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—Anthony J. D'Angelo



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