

Sector Houston - Galveston  
*Marine Safety Information Bulletin*  
MSIB 16-08

*Port Condition X-Ray*

*August 30, 2008*

In preparation for potentially severe weather, Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston has set Port Condition X-Ray effective 1400 local time. Anticipating gale force winds to make landfall within 48 hours, all vessel owners and operators shall enact their plans to moor or anchor their vessels, or put to sea, in preparation of the severe weather associated with Hurricane Gustav.


A safety zone is in effect throughout the Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port (COTP) zone to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City. Vessels operating in these ports should be aware that their voyages and operations may be directed by Coast Guard representatives in order to keep the port safe and secure. The Houston-Galveston COTP Zone is defined in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 3.40-28.

Self propelled oceangoing vessels over 500 gross tons, oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs, and tank barges over 200 gross tons desiring to remain in port must have an approved Application to Remain in Port. Vessels meeting the criteria above that do not have a Coast Guard approved Application to Remain in Port must contact (713) 671-5184 immediately.

Vessels, facilities, agents, and pilots shall review the appropriate portion of the Sector Houston-Galveston Port Pullout of the Storm Preparedness and Response Plan, and take appropriate actions. The Port Pullout, along with helpful storm preparation checklists, is available on Homeport at: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/houstongalveston> as part of the Severe Weather Port Pullout, which can be found under the Local Contingency Plans section.

Port Condition Yankee will be set via subsequent MSIB 24 hours before gale force winds are expected to make landfall in the COTP zone.

*If you have a specific issue regarding vessel movements and operations and/or their priorities, please use your Port Coordination Team Representative (PCT) to relay that concern to us; we will be using the PCT to effectively coordinate vessel movements.*

  
WILLIAM J. DIEHL  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Sector Houston-Galveston