

Sector Houston-Galveston  
*Marine Safety Information Bulletin*  
*MSIB 20-08*

*Port Condition Whiskey*

*September 9, 2008*

In preparation for potentially severe weather, Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston has set Port Condition Whiskey effective 1400 local time and established a temporary safety zone to control vessel movements and operations in preparation of the severe weather associated with Hurricane IKE. The safety zone affects the Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port zone as defined in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 3.40-28 to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City.

Anticipating gale force winds to make landfall within 72 hours, all vessel owners and operators shall identify safe areas where they plan to moor or anchor their vessels, or make provisions to be put to sea, in preparation of the severe weather associated with Hurricane IKE.

All self propelled oceangoing vessels over 500 gross tons, in addition to all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs have requirements to meet as severe weather conditions increase. One of these requirements is for these oceangoing vessels and barges that intend to remain in port to complete a Remaining-in-Port Checklist (Enclosure 1 to Exhibit 5 entitled "Sector Houston-Galveston Port Pullout"). A completed Application to Remain Inport shall be submitted for approval within 24 hours or when Port Condition X-Ray is set. Completed applications should be faxed to Sector Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5185.

The Sector Houston-Galveston Port Pullout, along with storm preparation checklists, is available on Homeport at: <http://homeport.uscg.mil/houstongalveston> as part of the Severe Weather Port Pull-out under the Local Contingency Plans section. Preparation checklists outline expected actions for vessel owners and operators to take in advance of the arrival of gale force winds. To ensure the protection of your vessel and the safety of your crew, now is the time to plan. You would be wise to carefully survey places to moor or anchor your vessel to safely ride out a tropical storm or hurricane, and should have all necessary severe weather mooring gear readily available.

*If you have a specific issue regarding vessel movements and/or their priorities within the Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston area as defined in 33 CFR 161.35, please use your Port Coordination Team Representative (PCT) to relay that concern to us.*



M. E. WOODRING  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
*Deputy Commander, Sector Houston-Galveston*