



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 22-20

Date:
Time:

Heavy Weather Preparations: Tropical Depression Seven Advisory

As we continue to monitor the progression of Tropical Depression Seven, currently located over the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, central and Southern Florida, and western Cuba, the Captain of the Port (COTP) Sector Houston-Galveston strongly encourages all port partners and the maritime communities to take prudent measures to ensure a high state of readiness, as track projections show potential significant impact to the Southeast Texas and surrounding areas as early as Thursday, July 23.

Continued uncertainty on the impact of the track may result in decreased preparation time once the path of the storm becomes more defined. As storm information is updated, there is the potential to go straight to Port Condition X-ray or Yankee. For information on Port Conditions, which will guide port stakeholder actions in the event of approaching storms, please refer to the Hurricane Information for the Marine Industry Guide at: www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/portcondition/index.htm.

All vessels and facilities are encouraged to begin planning to take preventive measures in advance of the storm. Such measures may include the following:

- Safety measures should be taken to secure missile hazards, nonessential equipment and loose gear.
- Container stacking protocols should be reviewed and implemented accordingly to predicted sustained winds by the National Weather Service.
- Oil transfer terminals should be prepared to drain all loading arms and hoses of product, blank off hoses, and empty /clean small discharge containment prior to storm arrival.
- Ensure that vessel moorings are adequate for the predicted wind and surge. Mooring lines ready to be doubled up with due consideration given effects of predicted storm surge. Consider leaving port if moorings are not adequate.
- Sufficient number of officers and crew onboard to tend mooring lines or get underway.
- Vessel ballasted to ensure maximum safety.
- All side ports, hatches, portholes, and other openings are closed and secured.
- A continuous radio watch maintained on VHF-FM Channel 16 and designated Vessel Traffic Service frequencies.
- Ensure that anchor and anchoring equipment is in good working condition.
- Spare mooring lines/and or wires should be inspected and made ready.

Additional guidance regarding Tropical Depression Seven will be issued in the form of further Marine Safety Information Bulletins, Broadcast Notice to Mariners or other forms as necessary. Please contact the Sector Houston-Galveston Command Duty Officer at (281) 464-4851 if you have any questions or comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. E. SMITH", written over a circular stamp or seal.

J. E. SMITH
Captain, United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port