



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 23-20

Date:
Time: 0800
JUL 23 2020

Tropical Depression 8/TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY Port Condition Whiskey

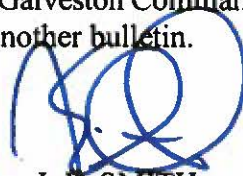
The Captain of the Port (COTP) has set Port Condition Whiskey for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City. Heavy weather conditions from Tropical Depression (TD) 8, formerly Invest 91L, have become better organized with a chance of becoming a tropical storm in the next 48 hours. TD 8 is expected to reach the Texas coast in the next 48 hours. The port community is advised to monitor the progress of the storm and make appropriate preparations for setting Port Condition Whiskey. For information on Port Conditions, which will guide port stakeholder actions, please refer to the Sector Houston-Galveston Heavy Weather PowerPoint presentation which is located on the HOMEPORT website.

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 to Port Condition X-Ray or straight to Port Condition Yankee. Additional guidance will be issued via Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB), Broadcast Notice to Mariners, or other forms as necessary. The Port Coordination Team will hold a teleconference on Thursday, July 23, at 9:00 A.M. and will facilitate communications between and amongst port stakeholders and to, and on behalf of, the COTP. Affected stakeholders should establish and maintain communications with your PCT delegates.

The COTP has established a safety zone for the following areas: That portion of Sector Houston-Galveston's Captain of the Port Zone (as defined in 33 CFR 3.40-28) west of GIWW MM-319.5 to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and all surrounding navigable waterways. Vessels that desire to enter, transit or remain within this safety zone, must comply with the following requirements:

- All self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 500 gross tons and all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs shall plan to depart the port immediately in the event Port Condition Yankee is set. Bunkering operations shall be completed prior to the setting of Port Condition Yankee to ensure a safe and timely departure.
- Only for extreme circumstances should self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 500 gross tons and oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs request to remain in port. In these extreme circumstances, a Remaining-in-Port Checklist shall be submitted to the Sector Prevention Department at houstonpsc@uscg.mil (281) 464-4767, or MSU Texas City at inspectionmsutexascity@uscg.mil (409) 978-2718, prior to the setting of Port Condition Yankee.
- Oceangoing vessels and inland tows bound for ports within the safety zone defined above are advised to seek an alternate destination. Inland tows must identify a facility/fleeting area that will support a safe mooring for the duration of heavy weather.
- Smaller commercial vessels not restricted by draft, including fishing vessels, should seek shelter outside the deep draft shipping channels and turning areas.
- Regardless of Port Condition, if sustained gale force winds are predicted (40-60 mph), the COTP will require departure from the Bolivar Anchorage 24 hours prior to predicted landfall.

Please address questions to the Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center at (281) 464-4855. This bulletin shall remain active until canceled or superseded by another bulletin.



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

For a current list of MSIBs within the COTP Houston-Galveston Zone visit: <https://homeport.uscg.mil> and select Houston-Galveston under the Port Directory.