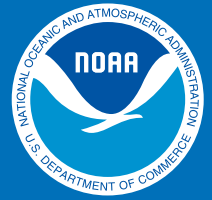


Are you ready for **storm season?**



Hurricanes and severe storms bring high winds and rain, strong waves, and storm surges that can damage or destroy your home, boat, or other property, can put your family or your business at risk, and have the potential to create a large amount of marine debris. Not only can storms damage the environment and property, but you could lose your own possessions and have to replace them. Do you know what to do to get ready, protect your family and belongings, and help prevent marine debris?



How can I protect my family and our home?

Debris from storms can crash into your home and damage it. Your possessions can also be ruined and can end up in waterways - even if you don't live right on the water - affecting navigation safety for boats.

What to do:

- Secure items on your property. Movable items, such as lawn furniture, should be put away in a secure, enclosed location like a garage or building.
- Items that cannot be put away in storage, such as outdoor appliances, should be secured carefully and tightly.
- Be sure you and your family stay in a safe place during the storm. You could be severely injured by falling trees and other debris, or by sudden flooding.
- You can get storm and hurricane planning guides for homeowners at: stormsmart.org/handbook.

Did you know?

Many household or boat items can become projectiles in severe storms. These include lawn chairs and barbecue grills, fishing nets and traps, utility carts and marina equipment, and gasoline cans and propane tanks, which are especially hazardous.

You can protect your home, boat, and the environment from the impacts of severe weather by taking a few simple steps.



How can I protect my boat?

Check with your marina or local marine authorities about what to do in an emergency.

What to do:

- Whenever possible, have your boat removed from the water and placed in land-based storage. Local marine authorities or marinas can identify land-based boat storage or safe harbors.
- If you cannot remove your boat from the water, take extra care to secure lines, hatches, windscreens, etc. Be sure to secure everything!
- Keep yourself safe during a storm. Do not go out in your boat to “ride out the storm.” You could be seriously harmed if your boat breaks up or is damaged.
- You can find more information on protecting your boat at:
www.boatus.com/hurricanes/HurricaneWarning.pdf

Did you know?

You can significantly reduce damage to your boat by removing it from the water. Boats left in the water are more likely to be damaged than boats stored on land, since they can be sunk by high waves and storm surges, or tossed up and down against nearby piers and other boats.



What can marina owners do?

It is important to have a plan for protecting your business property and for recovering from severe storms so that you can get up and running again as soon as possible.

What to do:

- Have a storm plan for your marina. Your boat owners should know how and when to prepare their boats. Make guidance available, and contact boat owners to let them know.
- Secure your marina’s property. Put movable items, such as marina carts, into enclosed buildings, and securely tie down items that cannot be stored away, like marina machinery.
- You can find emergency storm planning information and a sample emergency plan for marinas at: www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/projects/files/Clean_n_Resilient_Marina_Guidebook_at_a_Glance.pdf