



# Vero Beach Municipal Marina Hurricane Plan



## OVERVIEW:

Vero Beach Municipal Marina and the Harbormaster's office are located at 3611 Rio Vista Blvd at the Municipal Marina Main Facility. The Harbormaster and Marina Staff perform Harbor Management functions under the authority of the City Manager.

During hurricane season, the City Marina will act as a storm warning and information center for all boaters anchored or moored in the City operated and permitted mooring fields. The Harbormaster and Marina Staff will coordinate hurricane preparation and facilitate evacuation procedures for City-owned or managed marina facilities, mooring fields and anchorage areas.

## MOORING BALLS:

City moorings are not rated for strong storms or hurricanes because of an array of stress factors. Accordingly, the City cannot ensure that the moorings will hold in such conditions. Nevertheless, if a captain determines it to be the safest option for his or her vessel, the Harbormaster or Marina Staff will provide a storm-assignment prior to the issuance of a watch for a named storm event. Since the Marina may not be open for several days following a storm, assignments given will be for a minimum of one week.

Engineering specifications for Marina mooring systems are calculated for traditional vessel hull and cabin types. Therefore, non-traditional or other unique vessel types, such as houseboats, may not be allowed on City moorings or at City marina facilities.

Mooring attachment lines shall not be affixed to any portion of the mooring system other than the eyelet at the end of the pick-up line. There shall be no anchoring within the mooring field or placement of accessory anchors for any reason, including hurricanes. The use of any hard tackle such as shackles, snap hooks, thimbles or chain to attach to the mooring system is prohibited.

## MARINA DOCKAGE:

Significant damage to vessels and upland facilities will likely occur in a major storm if a vessel remains docked in the City Marina. All vessels on fixed and floating docks may be relocated to the mooring field section of the Marina.

## TERMINOLOGY:

**Hurricane:** A well-defined system of rain and thunderstorms with a well-defined circulation center with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater.

**Hurricane Season:** The period between June 1st and November 30th. Most tropical cyclone activity occurs during this time.

**Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane or tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area within 36 hours.

**Hurricane Warning:** Hurricane or tropical storm conditions are expected in the specified area within 24 hours.

**Storm Surge:** Seawater flooding that can occur as a result of several factors due to storm events.

**Tropical Depression:** An organized system of showers and thunderstorms that has a circulation center with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

**Tropical Storm:** A better-organized system of showers and thunderstorms with a well defined circulation center with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK:

All customers are required to read and sign the "Marina Hurricane Policy" each new hurricane season. This form will be updated and available at the Marina Office for Marina users prior to the start of hurricane season.

Staff will review hurricane procedures, assign storm preparation responsibilities and review locations for electric, water and sewer shut-off points.

Storm haul-out arrangements for Marina vessels will be confirmed by Harbormaster.

## 72 HOURS PRIOR TO LANDFALL:

Marina customers will be notified of the impending storm by VHF radio general announcement and posted notices in common areas. Notification will include the final pump-out, recyclable fluid collection and closure of the main Marina building and bathhouse.

Marina grounds will be completely inspected for loose debris and unnecessary items will be stowed or secured.

Marina buildings and equipment will be photographed for documentation purposes.

## 48 HOURS PRIOR TO LANDFALL:

Standard flags will be removed from the Marina flagpole, and a single red and black square storm warning flag will be raised.

## 36 HOURS PRIOR (HURRICANE WATCH):

A second red and black square flag will be raised to warn of the approaching hurricane.

POS systems are shut down and the Marina will be officially closed for business.

All computers and electronic equipment will be placed on desktops, unplugged and covered with plastic bags.

Pump-out and harbor boats will be hauled-out.

All unsecured items will be brought inside the Marina building.

All Marina buildings will be locked-down and employees are given reporting instructions and released from duty.

## POST-HURRICANE:

Harbormaster will inspect the entire facility and photo-document any damage. If the integrity of the utility systems seems intact, connections to the property will be switched-on and monitored.

A status report will be relayed to the City Manager and a determination will be made as to whether the facility should remain closed or resume normal operations.

# Attachment A

## VERO BEACH MUNICIPAL MARINA – HURRICANE POLICY

**Marina Moorings** are not rated for wind-speed or hurricane categories because of the variety of vessel weights, windage and an array of stress factors. During major storms or hurricanes, the City cannot assure that the moorings will hold in high wind conditions. Therefore, the Licensee must assume all liability from failure of the mooring during storm conditions. Engineering specifications for Marina mooring systems are calculated for traditional vessel hull and cabin types. Therefore, nontraditional or other unique vessel types, such as houseboats, may not be allowed at the Marina.

The **Marina Docks and Seawall** are not safe locations for vessels during tropical storms or hurricanes. Significant damage to vessels and to the Marina will likely occur in a major storm if a vessel remains at the Marina docks. Licensee agrees that it is his/her sole responsibility to be aware of the threat or approach of a tropical storm or hurricane. Mooring assignments for storm events will be for a minimum of one week. Payment is due at the time of assignment. **All Licensees** are required to sign and agree to the Hurricane Policy forms provided by the Marina on their first payment between the dates of June 1st and November 30th. All Licensees must sign the form each new hurricane season, including year round Marina residents.

Leaving any vessels, equipment, gear, automobiles, vans, campers, motorcycles, bicycles or any other type of transportation and any other item left at the marina property in any way, shape or form is done at the owner's sole risk. It is understood that the City and any or all of their agents, representatives or employees cannot assume any legal or financial responsibility for the preservation or removal of the items described above left on or near Marina grounds.

***I have read, understand, and agree to the policies and procedures above as attested by my signature***

The **Marina officially closes 24 hours prior**, and the building will be locked and **access will be denied at 24 hours prior**, to commencement of tropical storm conditions as forecast by the National Weather Service. Post storm, the City Manager will determine when the marina and mooring fields can be opened safely.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY:** Licensee, on his/her own behalf and on behalf of his/her executors, agents, heirs, personal representatives and assigns, and each of them, hereby expressly releases and forever discharges the City of Vero B and its agents, employees, officials and legal representatives, in both their official and individual capacities, as well as their successors and assigns (collectively referred to as the "**Marina**") from any and all claims, actions, demands and causes of action in law or in equity for any and all liability for loss, including loss of life, or damages to person or property, including, but not limited to, damages caused by **Marina's** own negligence, fire, theft, vandalism, wind storm, high or low waters, hail, rain, ice, collision or accident, any other Act of God or the acts of third parties, whether negligent or intentional. **Licensee** shall be liable to **Marina** for any personal injury, loss of life or property damage caused by **Licensee** or on behalf of **Licensee** or by **Licensee's** agents, servants or invitees. **Licensee** further agrees to defend, indemnify and hold **Marina** harmless from any loss, cost, expense, claim or liability, including attorney's fees and costs of litigation and appeal, for any and all personal injury, loss of life and property damage related in any way to **Licensee's** actions or property, regardless of **Marina's** negligence. This paragraph shall survive the expiration or termination of this agreement.

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SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE

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DATE