2533 NE 9th Ave • Cape Coral, Florida 33909
Tel: (239) 458-4868 • Fax (239) 458-9030

# Pre-Hurricane Season Check List

- Make sure your insurance policy is up-to-date
- Have a set of over sized mooring lines for tying boat off in the event of a storm. (1/4" larger than normal and 50% longer)
- Check all deck cleats and line chocks to ensure that they are of proper size (for above mentioned line) and anchored to deck properly
- Locate multiple tie off points on your boat and ensure that they are properly secured/thru bolted
- All anchor/navigation lights operational
- All automatic pumps operational
- Have an exact plan of where you will take your boat

# General Preparation List

- Update photo documentation every angle (canvas, hardtops, accessories, etc., prior to removal)
- Remove all external electronics (or completely tape around cabinet doors with duct tape)]
- Remove all canvas / eisenglass
- Remove bimini from tuna towers
- Remove all sails
- Remove Plexiglass bridge windscreens
- Remove all removable items, including spare rigging
- Clear self-bailing cockpit drains
- Close sea water intake seacocks
- Close all thru-hull fittings
- Set chafing gear where line will rub (chocks, cross lines, deck edge, dock edge, etc.)
- Remove portable fuel and oil storage containers
- Remove ship papers
- Shut off fuel tanks
- Leave anchor light on (if at a mooring or dock)
- Leave auto bilge pump on
- Check openings to ensure boat is watertight
- Remove outriggers
- Lower or remove antennas
- Remove boom – lash it down on shore
- Securely lock all pedestal seats
- Remove exterior cushions
- Remove all loose deck furniture
- Tape up all exposed cabinets and drawers
- Charge batteries
- Tape up engine room vents with duct tape
- Plug exhaust outlets on inboard engines
- Cover generators under open cockpit decks with plastic
- Lock all windows and seal with duct tape
- Tape all joints and seams on both sliding and fixed window glass on the outside
- Turn off AC/DC reefer
- Close sea cocks on heads
- Close or plug all sink drains
- Shut off all other sea cocks except to the main engines
- Disconnect and store shore power cords
- Turn off all DC circuit breakers (except the main and bilge pumps)

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- Check to be sure all pumps are working

## If you keep your boat at a marina

- What is the marinas hurricane plan
- What is the policy of the marina after a hurricane strikes (will the marina salvage your boat, or save it?)
- Remember, you are responsible for your boat, NOT the marina
- Have boat hauled if possible with extra jack stands placed under it and tied together (cross tied)
- Reduce boats windage as much as possible by removing items including masts
- Follow "General Preparation List"
- Follow "General Preparation List" even if boat is stored in a closed storage (the building may lose roof and/or exterior wall metal, exposing your boat to wind and water

## Boat on a lift

- If lift has a cover remove lift cover
- Remove electric motor covers and cover motors with heavy plastic
- Run lift as high as possible
- Tie boat to lift
- Tie lift to piling to eliminate swaying
- Make sure drain plug is removed from boat so it does not fill with water and become too heavy for lift capacity
- Plug engine exhaust (inboard engines)
- Follow "General Preparation List"

## Boat on a trailer

- Inspect trailer tires, hubs, springs, bunks, tow hitch and lights
- Tie trailer off to trees and/or other stationary objects such as "deadman"
- Tie boat down to trailer
- Fill hull with water, leave drain plug IN (check with boat manufacturer first), fresh water damage is better than losing boat (inboard boats can not do this and must leave drain plug OUT)
- Put wood block between trailer frame and springs due to extra weight
- Follow "General Preparation List"

## Boat in a slip or at a dock

- DO NOT STAY ON BOARD
- Use new lines ¼" larger than your normal dock lines as your primary lines, use your every day dock lines as secondary lines
- Check piling conditions and size
- If boat is in a slip, the slip should be 140% of the beam of the boat, piling should be no less than 6' above your rubrail at mean high water
- Cross tie across a North/South facing canal if possible
- Ensure that boats tied up wind of you are tied equally as well as your boat
- Inform neighbors of your cross tying, so you do not block anyone in
- Dock line should wrap around pilings twice and then finished with three half hitches
- Ensure cleats on the vessel are anchored properly, through bolted with large backing plates and cleats are of adequate size (the bigger the better)

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- Chafe protect all lines with a piece of plastic hose
- Follow "General Preparation List"

## Boat on a mooring

- DO NOT STAY ON BOARD
- Move boat to a well protected "hurricane hole" or up into mangroves
- Minimum of three anchors to windward with proper chain/rode (50/50) and a minimum scope of 10:1
- Chafe protection on all anchor lines
- Follow "General Preparation List"

## Post storm checklist

- Photograph any and all damage to vessel before anything is moved
- Remove any items left aboard to protect against looter
- Secure any openings to protect against further weathering and damage
- If machinery has been submerged or has gotten wet, machinery should be "pickled" by flushing with fresh water then filling with diesel fuel or kerosene
- If boat is sunk, contact your insurance company immediately, DO NOT sign any salvage or wreck removal contracts without prior approval from your insurance company
- Clean and protect your boat from further damage of water mold and mildew
- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to report any and all damage, they will schedule for an adjuster to document and file your claim
- Get an estimate from reputable repair facility, this estimate will need to be approved by the insurance company prior to work commencing