



Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 12-017, Hurricane SANDY

Weather Advisory

Port Condition X-RAY - 48 HOUR ALERT

Time: 2:00 p.m. / Date: October 24, 2012

In accordance with the National Hurricane Center Hurricane SANDY Public Advisory Number 9 (PAN 9) issued at 11:00 a.m. EDT on October 24, 2012, Hurricane SANDY is approximately 65 miles south of Kingston, Jamaica. PAN 9 notes that Hurricane SANDY is currently moving north/northeast at approximately 13 mph. Due to the possibility of gale force winds (39-54 mph / 34-37 knts) entering South Florida within 48 hours, the Captain of the Port (COTP) is ordering **Port Condition X-RAY** as follows:

- **2:00 p.m. October 24, 2012 - Port of Miami, Miami River, Port Everglades, Port of Palm Beach, Port of Ft. Pierce, and all other terminals and facilities within Sector Miami's area of responsibility.**

Prohibited Operations: None at this time.

Current Actions:

- Although not currently anticipated, if the storm tracks west to create winds that exceed safe working limits, vessels and terminal operators will be required to terminate all ship-to-shore cargo transactions at the setting of Port Condition Yankee. Container stacking heights should be reduced to four or less and two or less if they contain hazardous material. Alternative container stowage arrangements may be pre-approved by the COTP if they provide an equivalent measure of safety. If required, the COTP will begin contacting all ports regarding the timing of operational phase downs and termination plans. Waterfront cargo facilities should schedule labor accordingly.
- COTP personnel will conduct follow-up surveys to ensure that any hazards identified earlier are being resolved.
- Vessels that are unable to depart the port must contact the COTP to request and receive permission to remain in port. Proof of facility owner/operator approval will be required.
- Vessels given permission to remain in port should take all necessary precautions to secure the vessel for forecasted winds and tidal surges.
- Ship/tug services should maintain at least one tug each on standby for call-out.
- Dredges should move clear of the ICW and seek sheltered moorings.
- Individual companies should review and prepare to implement their post hurricane pollution contingency plan including planning for reconstitution of security plans.

- Anticipate storm movement may accelerate and periods between condition stages may be shortened. Plan cargo/vessel operations accordingly.
- Anticipate that upon the declaration of a state of emergency all bridges in the local area will be closed to facilitate a smooth and orderly evacuation of low-lying coastal areas and barrier islands. Drawbridges may be locked down as early as eight hours prior to the anticipated arrival of sustained gale force winds or when an evacuation is in progress.
- Oceangoing vessels should prepare to depart after the setting of Port Condition Yankee if the storm tracks to the west and COTP so directs.

Anticipated Future Actions: All ports in the Miami COTP Zone should be watching this storm closely and be prepared for the onset of Port Condition Modified YANKEE, anticipated to be set at 8:00 a.m. on October 25, 2012. Should higher port conditions be required based upon the progress of Hurricane SANDY, the following additional future requirements may be implemented.

- Commence/continue removing/securing missile hazards and hazardous cargoes at open wharves.
- Although not currently anticipated, should the storm track west, the COTP may order cessation of cargo handling operations on board waterfront cargo facilities on or about 2:00 p.m. on October 25, 2012. In that case, COTP will order the suspension of all ship-to-shore cargo transactions. Hire and schedule labor accordingly.
- Although not currently anticipated, should the storm track west, all oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 GT may be required to depart the port immediately. COTP Orders will be issued to vessel masters, if necessary, requiring them to depart.
- Although not currently anticipated, should the storm track west, the COTP may close the Port to incoming traffic at 8:00 a.m. or later on October 25, 2012. Broadcast Notice to Mariners will be used to announce impending port closures and special conditions deemed necessary by the COTP.
- Ship personnel should inspect the mooring of vessels that have been granted permission to remain in port.
- COTP survey teams will conduct final facility and vessel surveys to address any remaining unresolved discrepancies.
- Although not currently anticipated, should the storm track west, certain waterfront facilities may insist vessels depart their docks during this period. No moves will be permitted by the COTP unless the move can be done safely and mooring space has been identified at other piers, wharves or local shipyards, or if the vessel is departing to sea.
- Although not currently anticipated, should the storm track west, ports will be closed to inbound vessel traffic and cargo operations not associated with storm preparations. “Cargo operations associated with storm preparations” include moving cargo within the port for securing purposes, crane and other port/facility equipment preparations, and similar activities, but does not include moving cargo onto the port or loading/discharging operations unless specifically authorized by the COTP.

- Drawbridges in the area may not be operating as early as eight hours prior to the anticipated arrival of sustained gale force winds or when an evacuation is in progress. **Anticipate bridges entering a modified lockdown as early as 2:00 p.m. on October 25, 2012. A modified lockdown means that bridges will still have a bridge tender; however, the bridge will remain in the closed position until wind gusts subside below 40 mph.**

Questions regarding this MSIB or required actions should be directed to the Maritime Transportation System Recovery Unit.

Marine Safety Information Bulletin post updates are on Homeport under Port Conditions at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do>.

The COTP may be reached at telephone (305) 535-4472, or via Channel 16 VHF FM Marine Radio through Coast Guard Sector Miami.



C. P. SCRABA
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Captain of the Port, Miami