

Before Hurricane Season:

- Check your boat insurance policy or talk to your agent to see what actions you are required to take in order to file a valid claim.
- Check with your dock and find out their policy for hurricanes.
- Inventory (List, Pictures, Video) the items that will be staying on your boat. Make a list of what to remove from the boat.
- Place all legal documents (registration, insurance policy, radio license, etc.) in one waterproof container for easy transport and protection.
- Ensure you have enough mooring lines and they are in good condition. Ensure your anchor and anchor chains and lines are in good condition.
- Review the working condition of emergency equipment, such as first aid kit, flashlights, and battery-powered radios.
- If you are going to move your boat, determine where and how long it will take you to get there ahead of time.

NOTE: It would be wise to have your boat properly secured long before any public evacuation notices are issued. Waiting too long to make preparations may trap your boat at its present location, or worse, result in you being in a dangerous location during the storm.



Tony Reisinger

If you can put your boat on a trailer, here are some tips:

- ◆ Inspect the trailer to ensure that it is in proper operating condition. Check tires (including spare), wheel bearings, tow hitch and lights.
- ◆ If you can, put your boat and trailer in a garage.
- ◆ If they must be left out, lash boat securely to trailer and use tie-downs to anchor trailer to ground, trees or house. Let air out of trailer tires. Strip off everything that could be torn loose by a strong wind.
- ◆ Increase the weight of your trailered outboard boat by filling it with fresh water and leaving the drain plug in (inboard boats must be drained to avoid motor damage). Insert wood blocks between the trailer frame and the springs for extra support with the added weight.

If your boat will remain in the water, here are some options:

- ◆ **BERTH** at a dock that has sturdy pilings and offers reasonable shelter from open water and storm surge. Double up all mooring lines but provide enough slack so your boat can rise with the higher tides. Cover all lines with chafe protectors (double neoprene garden hose cut along the side) at points where the line is likely to wear and use extra fenders and fender boards (the more the better).
- ◆ **ANCHOR** your boat in a protected harbor where the bottom can allow a good anchor hold. An advantage to anchoring is that the boat can more easily respond to wind and water changes without striking docks or other boats than when moored. Heavy and extra anchors are needed for this option and enough line should be on hand to allow a scope of at least 10:1 for each anchor.
- ◆ **HURRICANE HOLES** are ideal locations to moor your boat during a hurricane. These are deep, narrow coves or inlets that are surrounded by a number of sturdy trees which block the wind and provide a tie-off for anchor lines. The best location for a hurricane hole is one far enough inland to avoid the most severe winds and tides, yet close enough to reach under short notice. You may want to scout out a satisfactory hurricane hole ahead of time!