

HURRICANE BOAT PREPARATIONS

The following information is provided in the event a hurricane warning is issued for the area where Flag Harbor is located.

The safest place for your boat is to store your boat ashore on a trailer or on stands in a boatyard. However, this is not always an option for all boat owners. Another possibility is to move your boat to a “hurricane hole”, i.e., a more sheltered in-the-water location where the boat can be anchored.

No matter where your boat is located, the following items should be accomplished to prepare your boat for high winds and heavy rainfall.

- All biminis, awnings, dodgers, and cockpit enclosures should be removed.
- All sails should be removed, especially roller furling headsails. An option for mainsails is to wrap the length of the boom with line with the sail still on it. The boom should then be lowered to the deck and secured to the boat.
- All mooring lines should be doubled up. Lines attached to the dock should be rigged so they can be adjusted from the dock. Do not attach mooring lines to the finger pier pilings. Chafe protection should be added where lines go through chocks.
- Make sure bilge pumps are working and cockpit drains are clear. Do not expect shore power to power any equipment on the boat.
- Disconnect shore power cables. Electric power to the docks is shut off when the water reaches the underside of the docks.
- Remove any items from the deck that are not attached to the boat.
- Empty your dock box of any items that will be damaged by getting wet and any containers that may leak pollutants into the water. Better yet, remove the dock box. Several were lost during Hurricane Isabel.
- Tape hatches and port lights that are prone to leaking since the wind will drive water past their seals.
- Remove electronics and ships’ papers and store ashore.
- All dinghies should be stored ashore.
- Make sure the Flag Harbor Condo Association office has your most current phone numbers.
- If you plan to have your boat moved or hauled by Flag Harbor Marine Service, you should make arrangements as early as possible. Do not expect to have your boat hauled 24 hours before the storm hits.