



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 049-21

July 5, 2021

SET PORT CONDITION X-RAY IN THE PORTS OF FERNANDINA AND JACKSONVILLE

Effective **8:00 p.m., July 5, 2021**, Port Condition X-RAY will be set in the Ports of Fernandina and Jacksonville. The ports remains open to all commercial traffic. Oceangoing vessels greater than 500 GT ITC, including oceangoing tugs and barges greater than 500 GT ITC, already in port or arriving during Port Condition X-RAY shall continue with preparations and safely depart the port before the setting of Port Condition ZULU (12 hours preceding the arrival of sustained Tropical Storm Force Winds).

Maritime interests are reminded that there are no “safe havens” identified within the Ports of Jacksonville and Fernandina for a vessel to safely survive Tropical Storm Force Winds or Storm Surges without creating a threat to the safety of the port and public welfare. The safest condition for the port during the arrival of a hurricane is when the inventory of vessels is at a minimum. All ships should coordinate their efforts in accordance with their evasion plan. Masters should take early and decisive action to ensure the safety of their vessels and crews.

Vessels desiring to remain in port during heavy weather must request and receive permission. For vessels already in port, this request should have already been submitted within 12 hours of the Captain of the Port setting Port Condition WHISKEY. Vessels arriving after the setting of Port Condition WHISKEY must submit a request to remain in port prior to entering the port. The request must be submitted in writing and explain the reasons why the vessel is submitting the request. All requests must also include a completed “Remaining in Port Checklist” that will describe the mooring arrangements and vessel specifics. This checklist must be signed by the vessel’s master and a representative of the facility where the vessel intends to moor. If the request is approved, additional measures may be required to ensure the safety of the port and the vessel. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the addition of extra mooring lines or fenders and the removal of cargo from the vessel. All remain in port requests must be submitted to the Remain in Port Liaison Officer (RIPO) at jaxdomestic@uscg.mil. If you have any questions regarding Remain in Port requests please contact CWO2 Emilio Sanchez at 904-714-7632 or ENS Villa-Senor at 904-714-7608.

Be advised, about eight hours prior to the predicted arrival of sustained Tropical Storm Force Winds (above 39 mph), most bridges will be locked down and will not open until after the severe weather has passed. It is critical that vessels intending to evacuate the Ports of Jacksonville and Fernandina via the St. Johns River or the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway depart early to avoid being blocked by bridge closures.

For additional information please contact Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville at (904) 714-7557.

M. R. Vlaun
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
Jacksonville, Florida

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/jacksonville>