

# ***STORM PREPARATION GUIDELINES***

***Revised: March 2015***

1. Generally, there is no safer place to be than on the hard! Check with your insurance carrier if your policy has a provision for emergency hauling. Sometimes the safest place to weather a storm is on a mooring. Super Storm Sandy produced a record surge and destroyed every boat on shore; except those on trailers that were towed to higher ground.
2. Carefully inspect pennants for wear and any sign of chafe. Have your Mooring Contractor replace if any wear is noticed. Carefully inspect your chafe gear. Make sure that that your cleats are smooth and that there are no rough edges anywhere on your bow that can saw through your lines. Especially check around any metal plates on your bow for raised edges. If you find any, file them down.
3. Remove any bow-hung anchors.
4. If your boat has a Bob-stay, insure that it is covered or that your chafe gear will survive rubbing against it (it won't!) so make sure it has a cover.
5. Add extra pennants or run chain to the boat as a back up. Extra pennants should be of at least 1" diameter and can be either Nylon or Dacron. If less than 1", use Dacron. If using non-chain safety pennants, make sure they have floatation so as to not snag on your mooring ball, if you use one.
6. Consider a bridle that reaches back to your primary winches or mast to attach safety pennants. **INSURE GOOD CHAFE PROTECTION FOR SAFETY PENNANTS!**
7. Strip all canvas from your boat. Bring below anything that may add windage. In force 8-9 storms (Gales: winds 34-47 kts.) sails may be left on provided extra ties are installed around any furling gear and

mainsail cover. In force 10-11 (Storms and Violent Storms: winds 48-63 kts.) remove all sails. Above force 12 (Hurricane: +64 kts.) remove all sails and anything on deck that is not screwed down. Consider removing masthead instruments that are removable and will not leave a hole (radar, radios, etc.).

8. Inspect standing and running rigging. Tighten halyards and make all lines secure.
9. Ask your Mooring provider to check that your mooring is not wrapped so that the mooring's full scope is available.
10. Double check that all thru-hull fittings are closed.
11. Ensure that all hatches are closed securely and that all articles aboard are stowed and will not come free due to severe wave action.
12. Check that your battery is fully charged. Manually operate the bilge pump float to insure it is in working order. Check bilge for floating debris that can jam the bilge pump float and cause the battery to drain.
13. Consider unlocking your boat and putting the ignition key in an obvious place. No one is going to steal her with a major storm approaching and many boats that were floundering or had broken free have been rescued by fellow members.
14. If you are out of the area email the Fleet Captain a contact who can in case of emergency, make decisions on your behalf.