



Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 20-007

Heavy Weather Condition Safe Harbor Advisory

This MSIB clarifies and reinforces the importance of sensible planning for the safe refuge of vessels under 500 gross tons whenever Coast Guard Sector Miami's Captain of the Port Zone experiences heavy weather conditions. In order to minimize property damage and potential adverse navigational effects, vessel owners should take appropriate action, as applicable, outlined below:

- 1) Boats that can be trailered should be removed from the water.
- 2) Properly secure and tie down vessels and human powered crafts that are located on lifts at residential docks. We recommend clearly marking smaller crafts to facilitate identification of the craft and its owner if it were to float free during heavy weather.
- 3) Large (non-trailerable) vessels should make early arrangements to ensure availability of haul out facility, unless moored appropriately for expected weather conditions.
- 4) If unable to remove your vessel from the water, ensure safe refuge availability does not violate the Regulated Navigation Area on the Miami River as described in 33 CFR 165.726 and addressed in MSIB 18-005.

Mariners are reminded that ports located within Coast Guard Sector Miami's Captain of the Port Zone change operating conditions, as outlined in MSIB 20-006, when heavy weather approaches and intensifies. All mariners are advised to access the homeport website (<https://homeport.uscg.mil/>) to monitor current port conditions and applicable MSIBs.

Operators of any vessel over 500 gross tons or of a certificated vessel under 500 gross tons who do not plan to depart the area for another harbor of safe refuge are asked to submit a heavy weather plan. U.S. flagged vessels are asked to email plans to MiamiInspections@uscg.mil. Foreign-flagged vessels are asked to email plans for MiamiArrivals@uscg.mil.

Every heavy weather occurrence and storm path is different, and as a mariner and boat owner, it is your responsibility to plan ahead and protect your vessel. Thank you for your understanding and support to our commitment of ensuring the safety and security of the ports and waterways of South Florida. Please contact the Sector Miami Command Center at (305) 535-4472 if you have any further questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J.F. Burdian".

J. F. BURDIAN

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Miami