



Release Date: July 29, 2020

PORT CONDITION WHISKEY (72 HOUR ALERT): POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE NINE

Due to the possibility of gale force winds (34-47 knots) entering the Tampa Bay area within 72 hours, the Captain of the Port (COTP) is ordering **Port Condition WHISKEY for the ports of Tampa, St. Petersburg, Manatee, and Ft. Myers**. The COTP will continue to evaluate weather predictions for the region.

Prohibited Operations: None

Authorized Operations: All

Current Actions: Waterfront facilities should be removing potential flying debris, hazardous materials and oil pollution hazards from dockside areas. Container stacking plans should be implemented. Container terminal operators shall reduce general cargo container stack heights to no more than two high for containers containing hazardous materials and no more than four high for all other containers, or propose alternate securing arrangements to the COTP. All facilities shall continue to operate in accordance with their approved Facility Security Plans and comply with the requirements of MTSA. Coast Guard Port Assessment Teams will be conducting port surveys. The COTP may require additional precautions to ensure the safety of the ports and waterways.

Future Actions: Affected ports in the St. Petersburg Captain of the Port Zone should be watching this storm closely. Should higher port conditions be required, the following additional future requirements may be implemented.

- In preparation for the approaching heavy weather, all oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons should make plans for departing the port, any vessels wishing to remain in port are required to submit a heavy weather plan to Sector St. Petersburg via email at WWMTampa@uscg.mil and receive permission. Proof of facility owner/operator approval is required.
- Vessels bound for any of these ports, which would be unable to depart if weather conditions worsen, are advised to seek an alternate destination as these ports may be closed to inbound traffic.

Drawbridges may be locked down as early as eight hours prior to the anticipated arrival of sustained gale force winds or when an evacuation is in progress. **During lock-down, the bridge is closed, power is turned off, traffic arms may be removed, the control house is secured and the bridge operator is sent to safety.**

Questions regarding this PCIB or required actions, should be directed to LCDR Christian Miura at (727) 824-7506 or to your Port Heavy Weather Advisory Group representative.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M.A. Thompson".

M. A. Thompson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port