

An Important Message to SLIP Customers

PREPARING FOR TROPICAL STORMS & HURRICANES AT KINGMAN YACHT CENTER

As we begin the boating season at Kingman Yacht Center, we would like to ask for your cooperation in reviewing an important document for our customers – the **Hurricane Action Plan**. We recommend that you take the time now to familiarize yourself with this plan and equip your boat with the necessary gear.

An Organized Plan of Action Allows Us to Mobilize Hundreds of Boats if Threatened By a Major Coastal Storm

Kingman Yacht Center has developed a highly organized plan of action to respond to the potential strike of a hurricane in New England waters. Because we service more than 350 boats during hurricane season, advance preparation is critical. Unlike smaller marinas, we must respond to approaching storms quickly, efficiently – and early – simply to overcome the logistical difficulties of mobilizing 350 boats in a very short period of time.

Prepare Your Course of Action In Advance with a Boater's Hurricane Plan

Each year we depend upon the assistance of our customers in filing a **Boater's Hurricane Plan**. This written plan provides us with a directive of your intentions for securing your boat in the event of a hurricane. Clearly specified options and pre-authorizations allow us to mobilize boats quickly, and save us from frantically trying to locate owners when time is critical.

*All owners of boats docked at our slips must also complete and file with Kingman Yacht Center a **Boater's Hurricane Plan** form. This form is effective only for one season so it is important that you fill out the **Boater's Hurricane Plan** included with this mailing even if we have a previous plan on file.*

Marina Evacuated if Storm Threatens Our Area

We know from historical experience that a tidal surge can cause serious damage to boats and property, even in a harbor as protected as ours. For this reason, Kingman Yacht Center requires that all boats docked at slips be evacuated in the event of a hurricane threat.

While some customers might complain when a hurricane loses steam or changes direction after we call for a mobilization, those of you who have lived through hurricanes in New England know how highly unpredictable these storms can be. When Kingman Yacht Center management determines that a given storm poses a significant threat to our harbor, we will require an evacuation of the marina. At risk are our facilities and property, and your boating investment of tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Hurricanes are, by nature, unpredictable and can change quickly in course and intensity. While a storm that fizzles out may be an inconvenience, we will err on the side of caution. Hurricane evacuations are not a profitable event for us. At the height of the season, we lose 4-6 days of normal business preparing for the storm and resuming business as usual. In recent years, this has translated into losses of as much as \$10,000 per storm.

Storm Surge Threatens Boats and Property

One more note about marina evacuation details: In several recent storms that either moved too fast or changed course, we left boats docked in the Back Basin. Regulations, however, clearly call for the *complete* evacuation of this area.

In future storms, if time and conditions permit, our Hurricane Action Plan will be carried out and enforced. And for good reason. If, as forecasters predict, we are hit by a Category 4 or 5 storm, or are hit at high tide under the wrong conditions, docks and boats left in the Back Basin will be destroyed. A storm similar in magnitude to the 1938 Hurricane would cause a huge surge to snap pilings and wash boats and docks ashore. Even during Hurricane "Bob," a mere Category 2 storm, a tidal surge caused the docks to rise nearly to street level, secured only by the last 12 inches of pilings remaining above water.

Preparation is the Key to Minimizing Damage

Those boaters who survived 1991's Hurricane "Bob" with us know that Kingman boats were spared the devastation sustained in most other Cape Cod harbors. We attribute this to luck and preparedness.

"Bob" was a classic example of how unpredictable hurricanes can be, making landfall in New England just 24 hours after veering off Cape Hatteras. Having customers' Hurricane Plans on file allowed us to haul, move and secure boats and property on only 24 hours notice (a schedule we hope not to have to repeat)! Boats in our harbor escaped with minimal damage. Other marinas subsequently adopted our Hurricane Action Plan, and insurance companies recommend it to their insureds.

It is significant that, during the summer of 2004, two storms followed "Bob's" potentially devastating track up Buzzards Bay, having just blown themselves out before arriving at our doorstep. The lesson here is that it is not a question of "*if*" we will face another hurricane, but "*when*" it will strike.

Your Cooperation is Essential

While a hurricane may be the farthest thing from your mind right now, thinking through such an eventuality and developing a plan may mean the difference in the survival of your boat. Founded in 1932, this marina has weathered the ten or so hurricanes that visited Cape Cod Waters during this period. Our successes in minimizing damage to boats and property during recent storms attest to the importance of preparing our boaters to ensure that we all work together in an emergency.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of filing your **Boater's Hurricane Plan**. Not only is it a requirement of your Dockage Contract, it is also the most important document we will have for your boat in the event of a hurricane. If you have any questions about how to fill it out, please call us now.

It is certain that, when a storm approaches, you are going to have questions about the safety of your vessel. Without a doubt, both you and our marina personnel have more time to deal with and answer those questions now than we will during the 48-72 hours leading up to a possible hurricane strike.

Thank you.

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