

An Important Message to MOORING 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!

As many of you know, Kingman Yacht Center has developed a highly organized plan of action to respond to a potential hurricane strike to 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 logistics of mobilizing 350 boats before an approaching hurricane.

Each year, we depend upon the assistance of our customers in preparing for hurricane season. In the event that a tropical storm or hurricane poses significant threat to our harbor, Kingman Yacht Center will declare a Hurricane Alert and require an evacuation of the marina. This mobilization will affect slip and mooring customers in different ways.

Boats in Slips

All boats docked at slips must have on file an individual **Boater's Hurricane Plan** providing Kingman Yacht Center with instructions for how those boats will be evacuated in the event of a hurricane. All such boats must be moved to an appropriate mooring or anchorage, or powerboats may be hauled if time permits.

Boats on Moorings

For our mooring customers, we ask that you secure your boat properly to minimize potential damage to your vessel and those around you should your boat break loose of the mooring. Early in the season, chafing gear and extra pennants should be stowed on board. If you need assistance in determining the proper gear, please call or stop by the Service Department.

As soon as you learn that a storm is approaching the East Coast, we recommend that you call us to confirm the status of storm preparations.

Since Kingman Yacht Center's initial priority will be evacuation of our 235 slips, we encourage all mooring customers to **personally** secure their boats. Due to time constraints, we prefer that you prepare your own boat, but if you are unable to do so, Kingman Yacht Center will perform the preparations, time permitting, at our standard hourly labor rate plus materials.

Although Kingman Yacht Center is fully prepared to assist boat owners with hurricane preparations, the ultimate responsibility for each vessel lies with its owner. With more than 350 boats to service it is a challenge for us to mobilize every boat owner in 48-72 hours. Your initiative will assist our staff when time is most critical.

Suggested Hurricane Preparations for Boats on Moorings

The following recommendations do not guarantee that your boat will escape damage, but will improve the potential for minimizing damage during a hurricane:

1. Secure all on-deck equipment such as antennas, fenders, dodgers, bimini tops, hooks, rafts, ladders, fishing gear, chairs, etc.
2. Remove or lash down sails, particularly roller furled genoas.
3. Secure mooring lines and protect them with adequate chafing gear.
4. Secure the mooring with additional pennants.
5. Stow dinghies ashore.

A NOTE ABOUT DINGHIES: All dinghies must be removed from the Dinghy dock during the first 24 hours after Kingman Yacht Center declares a Hurricane Alert. After this time, the Dinghy Dock will be dismantled. Dinghies must be stowed ashore by owners in an area designated by marina personnel. The *Kingman Launch* will be in service for as long as safe operation is possible.

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. None of Kingman's 130 heavy-duty moorings dragged during this storm. Only five Kingman boats broke free due to inadequate chafing gear, or from collisions with boats that had dragged from moorings across the harbor.

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

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of proper preparations. 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 keeping our boaters informed and prepared.

If you have any questions about gear, or how to secure your boat, please call us. 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.