



## **WATCH HILL YACHT CLUB HURRICANE PLAN**

Hurricanes are severe tropical disturbances which originate over water, gradually intensifying as they move over the ocean in erratic but sometimes predictable courses. A tropical storm which has wind velocities of over 74 miles per hour is classified as a hurricane. In addition to high winds and torrential rains, these storms are accompanied by mountainous seas, abnormally high tides in coastal areas, and create possible tidal waves along the storm's path.

This plan defines the responsibilities and functions to be followed in the event of such a storm:

It is appropriate to state that the limited resources of the WHYC only allow it to be responsible for WHYC property. The membership must make their own arrangements to protect their vessels and other property.

Any assistance by Club personnel that can be rendered after the WHYC and its property are secure may be available subject to the Club Manager's discretion, bearing in mind the proximity of the storm.

### **HURRICANE ALERT: (72-48 hours prior to Hurricane ETA)**

1) Notify all staff that the Club is on hurricane alert. All staff should begin preparations to secure property, including monitoring of radio, weather radio, and other weather-related media (internet, etc.);

2) Notify Guest Boats to vacate moorings. Note that Launch Service may be suspended early if conditions warrant.

A HURRICANE WATCH means that a hurricane is possible within 24-36 hours.

Upon a HURRICANE WATCH being issued for our area by NOAA weather station the following steps will be taken:

- 1> All memorabilia will be removed and secured in a protected area;
- 2> All money, checks, etc. will be removed and secured;
- 3> All silver trophies will be removed and secured in a protected area;

- 4> Club members in the Watch Hill vicinity who are available to assist are requested to notify the Club Manager and stand by for call depending upon the position and progress of the storm.

Following the HURRICANE WATCH, the Commodore and Club Manager shall monitor the storm and the Commodore shall decide if the when the following steps should be taken:

### **Notification to Members and Mooring Owners/Renters:**

Mooring owners and or renters should be reminded by email or telephone that they are responsible for removing their boats from the harbor;

### **Building Upstairs**

1. Bring all porch furniture inside; move furniture to the middle of the building;
2. Install storm shutters;
3. Lock all doors and windows;

### **Building Downstairs:**

1. All items on the lower level subject to water or wind damage shall be moved upstairs or removed from the premises wherever possible; All deck furniture shall be moved inside or removed to secure storage;
2. Install storm shutter on all windows;
3. Roll up walkway mats and store inside;
4. Remove all signs and store inside;
5. Remove garbage bins, hoses, and other equipment to inside storage;
6. Tighten flag halyards and add additional lines where possible;

### **Kitchen:**

- 1> Move all food items as high off the floors as possible;
- 2> Remove and store smaller appliances and equipment wherever possible;
- 3> Turn off propane-operated appliances;

**Boats:**

1. The destination of all Club boats shall be decided and initiated **48 hours** in advance of the storm. All club boats on moorings shall have double lines and chafing gear.
2. The following is a guide to the disposition of the Club boats in order of priority:
3. **Committee Boat (WATCH DOG):** Hauled, mooring up the Pawcatuck River, or slip;  
**Mako (GRATIS):** Hauled, mooring up the Pawcatuck River, or slip;  
**Whaler # 1:** Club mooring, hauled, mooring, or slip;  
**Whaler # 2:** Club mooring, hauled, mooring, or slip;  
**Inflatable(s):** hauled, mooring, or slip;  
**Rowing dinghies:** store inside building if space permits, or upper lot storage;  
**420's, Optis, & other craft:** hauled, towed upriver, or scuttled at their moorings, masts removed;

**Launch:** To be available as long as appropriate so as to allow Club members to access and prepare their boats for storm conditions. In practice, winds in excess of 35 knots become dangerous for driver and passengers. The Club Manager will decide when the Launch is to be removed to a safe location up the river to a slip or mooring.

**Gear & electronics** should be removed from all WHYC boats wherever practical. A Club boat shall be available to authorized personnel designated by the Commodore or Vice Commodore for Club access and review of moored boats immediately after the storm passes. Passage in the village during and after a disaster is controlled by agencies other than WHYC and will be restricted.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBERS TO SECURE THEIR VESSELS AND REMOVE THEM FROM THE HARBOR.**

## **Docks:**

1. Under no circumstance will any boat tie to, or remain on any docks owned by the WHYC.
2. Disconnect the access ramps and secure, making special note of hardware removed;
3. Check the pins, chains, and other connectors on all floats;
4. Tow or have towed the 420 dock to an upriver mooring;
5. [If the storm is to pass to the East, resulting in strong NW wind, the floats may be removed in 3 or 4 sections and put on the outside Club moorings]

## **HURRICANE WARNING (24-Hours prior to ETA)**

### **FINAL STORM PREPARATION:**

- 1) Notify all staff that the club is on a Hurricane Warning basis;
- 2) Remove remaining Club records, computers, etc. to a safe and secure location

### **Utilities & Misc:**

1. Shut off valve for propane tank;
2. Shut off the water at meter in Launch Office;
3. Shut off electricity at the main panel;
- 4) Secure all flammable, explosive, or other hazardous material (including compressed gas cylinders, flares, cannon shells) to a safe, protected area.
- 5) Lock all doors and leave.

## **Recovery**

Extensive damage may result because of the hurricane and there will be limitations on accessing the Club. Currently, a special pass is required for reentry to the Watch Hill Area. An inspection will be made as soon as practical to determine conditions, damages, and security of the premises.

Be aware of downed electrical lines, which should be considered “hot” and avoidable until the power company services the wires.

Do not start electrical equipment that has been submerged in water until it has been checked and repaired as necessary.

Check the Clubhouse galley, dock office, junior sailing, kitchen and outside electrical outlets prior to turning on the main power.

As soon as the Club has been deemed safe for complete inspection, a complete survey of the facilities, inventories, and equipment will be made with photographs or video, wherever possible. Any losses or damages should be reported immediately to our insurance company.

After making damage assessments, a repair plan will be executed as soon as possible. It is understood that even though immediate repairs may be necessary, all actions taken during the course of the repair prior to any insurance adjustment will be properly documented and filed.

Should there be any theft or vandalism loss or damage (other than storm related); a report will be made to the Westerly Police Dept. The incident report number, and if possible, a copy of the incident report, will be obtained to substantiate any insurance claim or tax property loss reporting.