

Release Date: November 4, 2024

PORT CONDITION WHISKEY (72 HOUR ALERT): TROPICAL DEPRESSION 18

Due to the possibility of gale force winds (37 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 effective on November 4, 2024 at 1200 (12:00 p.m.). Tropical Depression 18 is forecasted to become a hurricane and enter the Gulf of Mexico later this week. The COTP will continue to evaluate weather predictions.

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. Operators should 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. The COTP 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.

- x In preparation for the approaching heavy weather, all oceangoing commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons should make plans for departing port. Any vessels that cannot depart are required to submit a heavy weather plan to Sector St. Petersburg via email at WWM Tampa@uscg.mil to request and receive permission. Proof of facility owner/operator approval is required.
- x 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 the U.S. Coast Guard, Sector St. Petersburg Chief, Waterways Management Division, LCDR Ryan Junod at (813) 971-3718 or to your Port Heavy Weather Advisory Group representative.

M. P. Kahle
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port