

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Captain of the Port  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Sector Columbia River

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## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

*These bulletins are purely informational for the maritime community within this Captain of the Port zone. They advise you of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System. As important, they help to manage expectations & facilitate cooperation regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security. Increased vigilance in our maritime world hinges significantly upon proactive engagement & information sharing with the private sector, which has the primary responsibility for security & safety at their waterfront facilities & vessels.*

**BULLETIN NO: 006-10**

**Date: NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

### **SUBJECT: SEVERE WEATHER PREPARATIONS**

1. The Coast Guard has received information from the National Weather Service indicating that a stronger than normal weather system will be moving through the area of the Columbia River. In preparation for this weather we request that all mariners and facility operators complete the following preparations:
  - Ensure all loose debris and/or items on deck are stored or secured.
  - Ensure that all moorings are secure and that they have the proper amount of slack for any tidal changes.
  - Vessels moored at facilities are encouraged to utilize double mooring lines and reminded to constantly check mooring arrangements.
  - Brief all members of crew or facility operators on safety precautions during severe weather.
2. All vessel operators and facilities are advised to coordinate shifting berths, anchorages or departing/arriving in the river in advance of the severe weather to reduce delays and are asked to carefully plan transits during heavy weather to ensure the transits can be conducted safely.
3. All vessel operators and facilities are advised to coordinate shifting berths, anchorages or departing/arriving in the river in advance of the severe weather to reduce delays.
4. Vessels at anchor during the severe weather are required to:
  - Maintain the bridge watch by a Licensed Deck Officer.
  - Have at least one engine on standby, ready to provide immediate propulsion.
  - Have secondary anchor on standby.
  - Increase rounds to check mooring lines and anchor chains.
  - Identify available tugs to assist in emergencies.
  - Consult with River Pilots and Facility Operators concerning local river conditions.

If the weather has sustained winds in excess of 48 knots consider instituting the following:

- Consider increasing the scope of anchor chain.
  - Assess the need for a Pilot onboard and request one if necessary.
  - Assess the need to have tugs of appropriate size and horsepower alongside to ensure positive control of your vessel.
5. All agents, vessels and facility operators are reminded to regularly check local river conditions and closely coordinate with each other to ensure that all reasonable safety precautions are in place to ensure the safety of all personnel.
6. Current tidal conditions and river levels can be found at National Weather Service <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/tides.php>.

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