

HURRICANE SEASON SAFETY MEASURES

INTRODUCTION

Yachtsmen have all invested a considerable amount of money in the purchase and the maintenance of their boats to allow them to enjoy this magnificent area of the Caribbean . The sea, the temperature, the water, the people and the life style are appealing factors that drew us all to this part of the world. However, there are two sides to a coin; in this case, the Hurricane Season. It is true that Grenada is outside of the regular path of these meteorological phenomena, however, no one can deny the possibility of a hurricane affecting the island. It is common sense for a skipper to guard against all eventualities, while hoping that they will never happen.

Whisper Cove Marina recognizes this hazard and has established a contingency plan for the Hurricane Season. This plan takes in consideration the choice of equipment, the number of boats at the dock, their placement in relation to others as well as several other actions taken to protect the boats of our clients. The plan assumes that the owners or operators of boats will take a certain amount of precautions.

The purpose of this document is to highlight the procedures that Whisper Cove Marina has developed for the Hurricane Season. This document also indicates the **MINIMAL** obligations of an owner or an operator to protect their own boat and other boats. It is of course the owner or the operator's sole responsibility to take the necessary precautions.

EMERGENCY PLAN

OUR VISION

We start with the assumption that at least one hurricane of level 5 will hit us in the Hurricane Season. This hurricane will arrive rapidly and we will have very little time left for preparations.

In light of this , our actions start prior to the Hurricane Season, officially declared between the beginning of June and the end of November. Our actions are grouped into 2 phases.

Phase	Period
Anticipation of the season	Month of May
Imminent arrival of a hurricane	When the probabilities that Grenada could be hit are more than 40%

EQUIPMENT

Whisper Cove Marina has docks, moorings and adequate lines for the Hurricane Season. The docks can accommodate 13 boats. In case of a hurricane threat the number of boats at the dock will be reduced to 6 or less. 8 hurricane moorings have also been installed right in front of the marina. These 8 moorings are anchored to resist extreme conditions and are equipped with a marine screw anchor and a one tonne concrete block.

THE PREPARATION

A) IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SEASON

Even though the installations and equipment are regularly inspected, they will be thoroughly checked in May in anticipation of a potential hurricane. The moorings are inspected underwater to ensure the perfect condition of the link between the marine screw, the concrete block and the lines. They are then inspected on a monthly basis during the hurricane season.

If the owner or operator of a boat plans on being absent during the hurricane season, he must perform the following tasks prior to his departure:

- 1) Remove everything that could catch in the wind and exert pressure on the anchorage system or that can be airborne and could injure someone or damage the property of Whisper Cove Marina or the boats close by:
 - Sails, Bimini tops, canvas covers, dinghies, solar panels (if applicable), outboard motor, lifting device for the outboard motor, etc.
- 2) Safely secure items that cannot be removed
 - Boom (should ideally be removed from the mast), halyards etc.
- 3) Ensure that the cockpit drains are not blocked.
- 4) Prepare the boat to be able to be moved rapidly in case of an emergency
 - Propeller and the bow thrust cleaned, main engine in good condition, batteries fully charged, fuel tanks full, firefighting equipment accessible and operational, rescue equipment available, etc.
- 5) Keep the other protection equipment available on the boat
 - fenders, anchors, lines, etc.

If the owner or operator lives on board or close to his boat or if he has reserved the services of a guardianage company it is possible to leave the canvas covers, the bimini or other sun shield equipment in place. Of course they must be removed if there is a hurricane threat in Grenada.

B) ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF AN IMMINENT THREAT OF A HURRICANE

As soon as a hurricane has the possibility of hitting Grenada (more than 40% probability of being hit), the Management of Whisper Cove Marina considers the hurricane as being imminent. The same applies if the movement of the hurricane is atypical, even if the probability is less than 40%. In this situation, the owner or operator of the boat must remove his sun shield equipment (bimini, canvas cover, etc.). The hatches, ports and other openings must be closed and locked. All thru-hulls must be closed.

Boats weighing more than 15 tonnes will be moved and secured to hurricane moorings. Some boats of less than 15 tonnes might also be moved to leave sufficient space between the boats left at the dock.

Owners or operators of boats must install mooring lines of $\frac{3}{4}$ inches (20 mm) secured to the strongest elements of the boat.

- The boats that remain at the dock will be tied 6.5 feet (2 meters) from the pontoon and spaced on their port and starboard side in such a way that they cannot touch the other boats.
 - Even if the permanent anchors are strong enough to theoretically withhold the violence of a hurricane, Whisper Cove Marina has prepared additional anchors. The system consists of bollards for cargos completed with stainless steel cables. The boats will be directly secured to these bollards with the stainless steel cables.
 - An additional anchor will also be installed.
- The mooring lines will be secured to the strongest elements on the boat. Additional mooring lines will be added to cleats and winches or other strong points on the boat.
 - It is important to provide a protection against wear caused by friction for these mooring lines and the boat.
- The boats that are not at the dock will be tied to the hurricane moorings of the marina.

NOTE 1

A disaster can still happen even with all these safety precautions in place. The marina will not be held responsible for damages. The marina offers services to rent space and various services but it does include marine responsibility.

NOTE 2

The marina will do everything in its power to protect the boats. If supplement actions must be taken to secure a boat when the owner has not followed the stipulated precautions, Whisper Cover Marina will take action and charge the owner for additional fees encountered.