



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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MEMA ISSUES HURRICANE SAFETY TIPS FOR BOAT OWNERS

Framingham, MA – “If you are a boat owner, you know that preparing your boat for a hurricane is just as important as preparing your home,” said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Acting Director Ken McBride. “MEMA has some important safety tips for boat owners as they prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.”

- During the Hurricane Season, boaters should continually obtain the latest available weather forecast for your boating area.
- Boat owners should assemble emergency equipment and supplies, as well as all of the necessary gear on board to properly tie down their vessel. Realize that you may not be able to pull your boat out of the water. Precious time is lost if you are searching for gear as a storm approaches.
- Identify hurricane holes and safe harbors in the area in case you are caught at sea.
- Have a plan worked out with your marina operator so there are no questions or confusion when the time comes to tie up or pull the boat from the water.
- Insure your vessel is as watertight as possible. Use duct tape and plugs to seal hatches, ports, windows, doors and vents.
- Remove all electronics, valuables and non-essential items.
- Have your insurance policies, boat registration, a recent photograph and description of the vessel, gear inventory, marina or storage lease agreement and important telephone numbers (local harbormaster, U.S. Coast Guard, National Weather Service, insurance agent) in a secure place off of the boat.
- When you are through, help your neighbor. It only takes one poorly tied boat in a marina to destroy an entire dock.
- Do not stay on the boat.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

GOVERNOR PATRICK HAS PROCLAIMED JULY AS ‘HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH’ IN MASSACHUSETTS!