



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 and situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System. As important, they help to manage expectations and 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 and information sharing with the private sector, which has the primary responsibility for security and safety at their waterfront facilities and vessels.

BULLETIN NO: 002-23

Date: November 03, 2023

SUBJECT: SEASONAL ADVISORY FOR MARINERS' ACTIONS DURING HEAVY WEATHER WITHIN THE SECTOR PUGET SOUND CAPTAIN OF THE PORT ZONE

This bulletin addresses the safety, security, and environmental protection of all vessels and ports within the Sector Puget Sound Captain of the Port Zone. Unexpected heavy weather or rapid changes in weather can significantly increase the likelihood of marine casualties. During times of severe weather, the Coast Guard reminds the maritime community to exercise increased vigilance and implement appropriate measures to ensure the safety of vessels and to protect the environment. To do that effectively, it is strongly recommended that the following actions be taken:

1. Prepare for heavy weather events ahead of time. Ensure crewmembers are designated to check and report weather updates prior to getting underway. Organize training with the crew and passengers, conduct heavy weather drills, and review response and potential storm evasion options.
2. Understand your vessel's operating limitations and key factors, e.g., vessel loading, down flooding points, profile, and sail area, with respect to weather conditions.
3. All vessel owners and operators are highly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee Heavy Weather and Anchoring Standards of Care, which can be found at <https://pshsc.org>.
4. If weather conditions deteriorate, it is imperative that vessels coordinate with the Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) regarding recommendations for either harbors of safe refuge, anchorage, or arrangements as per the specific standards of care. To coordinate efforts, contact the VTS via channel 5A or 14 depending on the location or the watch supervisor at (206) 217-6152.
5. For more information, please contact LCDR John Robertson at John.M.Robertson@uscg.mil or (206) 217-6042.

Sincerely,

M. A. McDonnell
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Puget Sound