

Storm Preparation

When a hurricane is predicted to impact the Chesapeake Bay region many people want to know what to do to get ready. The only time that you will know exactly how to prepare for a hurricane is after the storm has passed. Unfortunately, hurricanes are unpredictable and no one can pin point in advance the winds, rain and storm surge that will occur. Worton Creek Marina has the advantage of being known as a hurricane hole since it is protected on virtually all sides by high banks. However, it is prudent that all owners prepare in advance of any storm.

As a general rule of thumb a storm track with the center of a storm to the east of WCM puts us on the dry side and we would expect the winds to blow the water out of the bay. For example Hurricane Floyd in 1999 produced high winds but very low tides. The opposite was true in 2003 when Hurricane Isabel produced record high water levels due to a storm surge and winds pushing water up the bay. The eye of Floyd was to our east while Isabel's center was to our west. Keep in mind that the actual storm track does not usually match predictions.

WHAT EVERY BOAT OWNER SHOULD DO BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES;

- Stow or take home all loose items, such as deck chairs, cushions, coolers, etc.
- Remove or secure all biminis, canvas, sails, etc.
- Secure all hatches and doors.
- Make sure your bilge pumps and battery systems are operating properly.
- Double up on dock lines and leave slack for extra high or low water.
- Prepare for an extended power outage. If we anticipate extreme high water we will turn off power to the docks. We could also lose power from the electric company.
- If you are in a covered shed be sure to lower all antennas, masts, etc.
- Consider hauling out your boat. We will haul on a first come, first served basis. Check with your insurance company to see if you may be partially compensated for this expense.

- Do not leave your car on the drive near the docks or around the red building.
- Do not plan to stay on your boat during the storm.

WHAT WE WILL DO BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES:

- We will walk the docks and dry storage areas to try and identify boats that need lines adjusted or equipment removed, and attempt to contact owners as necessary. Worton Creek Marina assumes no liability whatsoever for damage to boats from the hurricane and boat owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to insure that their boats are secure.
- We will move all equipment possible to the dry storage lot and secure the marina.
- We will haul boats as requested and as time allows.
- We will turn off the dock electric if extreme high water is imminent.
- Once the storm has arrived we will NOT go out to any boats to adjust lines or in any way risk personal injury.

AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED:

- We will assess any damage that may have occurred and call any affected owners at the earliest possible moment.
- We will turn on electric as soon as possible. Keep in mind that if we have experienced high water we may have to clean and dry outlets first.