

Storm Preparations for Slipholders

Nobody wants storms but we're pushing our luck if we don't make plans to deal with them. Following are some proven methods and techniques for protecting your boat when the storm warnings are flying.

Floating docks eliminate the need to lengthen most lines to accommodate higher tides, but there are several things that should be done. Here are some proven boat tie-up procedures for when a storm is imminent:

- Tie up bow in. This is particularly true for power boats. Dock design provides maximum protection when the boat is moored bow in. (Wide sterns and swim platforms suffer when competing with finger supports). If fender pile location is an issue, decide which tie up method (bow in or out) is best.
- Change spring line length to insure the boat does not sit too deeply into the slip. Continuous loading can stretch dock lines up to 30% and what seems like adequate normal standoff from the walkway isn't enough in a storm.
- Double up on lines. If possible don't just double to the same cleat, use alternate attachment points.
- Use lines that are relatively new and of proper size. Almost all the boat damage sustained at HYC in Hurricane Isabel could be traced to failing lines, many of which were visibly deficient. You could be liable if your deficiencies are responsible for damage to others.
- Apply serious chafing guards where lines meet cleats and rails.
- Add fenders between boats and fingers.
- For double occupancy slips, tie lines between boats. This tends to keep both boats off their fingers. Make sure both occupants agree with this procedure.
- **DO NOT** tie to your neighbor's cleats without permission of the neighbor and the Piers and Docks committee.
- Insure cockpit drains and scuppers are clear and functional.
- **Don't** tie to the fender pile between the slips. Tying to the pile defeats the value of a full finger length floating dock and having a proper length mooring line.
- Reduce windage. Remove and stow sails, covers, biminis and any exposed canvas. Bring inflatables and dinghies ashore.
- Shut off or reduce any shore power demands. Loss of power to the club means you are dependent on boat batteries.
- Remove small boats from the Dry Storage Lot to a secure location away from the waterfront.
- Dry storage boats should be tied down. Halyards can be led to trailer bases. Removing the mast will reduce windage.
- **Visit and check your boat in time to do what is necessary.**
- **Save this page as a check list!**

