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PROTECTING YOUR BOAT

Boat owners should plan early to avoid congestion on the water and on the road. Never try to ride out a storm in a boat.

SECURING YOUR BOAT AT HOME

If you can put your boat in a garage, that's your best option. If you must leave your boat on a trailer, remove important papers, equipment and anything that could blow away. Park the trailer near a building.

Lash it down with chains or heavy ropes, away from objects that could fall on it.



Add weight to the boat by filling it no more than halfway with water. Overfilling can damage the trailer.

Remove outboard motors.

Let some air out of the tires and place blocks beneath the wheels to prevent the trailer from rolling.

FINDING A SAFE HARBOR

If you can't remove your boat from the water, move it to the safest refuge possible.

Emergency authorities will announce over marine radio details of flotilla plans, which are designed to move the largest number of boats in the shortest period of time.

Ground traffic gets priority in an evacuation, and drawbridges are locked down within hours, which severely limits boat traffic.

Canals leading inland offer protection, but most major east-

west waterways are blocked at some point by floodgates. Don't impede other boats by anchoring yours in the middle of the canal.

MARINAS, DOCKS

Many marinas must be evacuated during a hurricane alert. Check your dockage lease and consult the dockmaster.

Tie high on pilings to allow for rising water. Run extra line and double every tie.

Cover all tie lines at contact

points with rubber to prevent chafing.

Disconnect shore power.

Be sure batteries are sufficient to run bilge pumps.

Insert plugs in engine ports.

Close fuel valves and cockpit seacocks.

Use duct tape to seal windows and hatches.

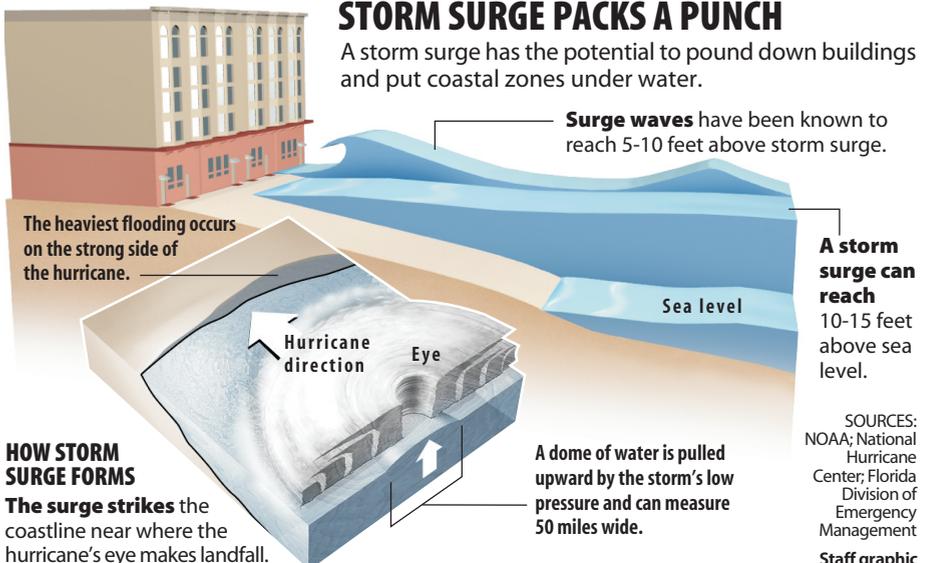
Install fenders to protect boat from rubbing against the dock.

Remove all canvas, chains, life rings and other equipment to reduce the wind load.

Staff graphic

STORM SURGE PACKS A PUNCH

A storm surge has the potential to pound down buildings and put coastal zones under water.



The heaviest flooding occurs on the strong side of the hurricane.

Surge waves have been known to reach 5-10 feet above storm surge.

A storm surge can reach 10-15 feet above sea level.

HOW STORM SURGE FORMS

The surge strikes the coastline near where the hurricane's eye makes landfall.

A dome of water is pulled upward by the storm's low pressure and can measure 50 miles wide.

SOURCES:
NOAA; National Hurricane Center; Florida Division of Emergency Management

Staff graphic