

# cyclone procedures



## **TROPICAL CYCLONES** ISSUED BY MERIDIEN MARINAS ABEL POINT PTY LTD THE OPERATOR OF ABEL POINT MARINA

### **CYCLONE ACTIVITY IN THE WHITSUNDAYS**

The Tropical Cyclone Season in Australia extends from November to April. The entire Queensland coastline is open to tropical cyclones, however generally the stronger, more destructive ones cross the Queensland Coast north of Rockhampton.

On the 21st of March 2010 Severe Tropical Cyclone Ului became the first major cyclone to make landfall in the Whitsundays since Severe Tropical Cyclone Ada devastated the area on the 17th of January 1974.

Significant wind damage was reported around the Whitsundays and Central Coast district, mainly between Airlie Beach and Mackay. Reports of damage included widespread tree damage, large areas of sugarcane destroyed and localised structural damage, particularly to roofs. About 50,000 homes lost power following the passage of the system. Many boats were also damaged or destroyed due to large seas and swell created by Ului, particularly around Shute Harbour near Airlie Beach.

Abel Point Marina fared well during the cyclone. The implementation of our cyclone procedures and those of our commercial operators and tenants resulted in a resounding success thanks to forward planning, preparation and efficient implementation of these carefully developed cyclone procedures.

This year the forecasters are preparing the public for the possibility of a number of Cyclonic events that may impact the area and rest of Northern and North East Australia.

Shingley Drive, Airlie Beach Qld 4802  
20° 16' S lat. 148° 43' E Long.  
p: +61 7 4946 2400 f: +61 7 4946 2444  
Opening hours: 0800 to 1700, 7 days a week

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## RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

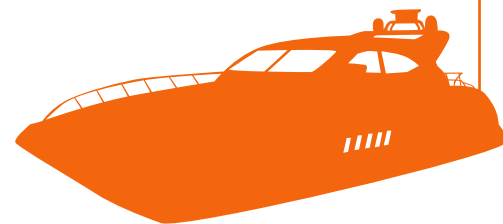
Masters and owners have an obligation under the Transport Operations Marine Safety Act 1994 (S41) at all times to take appropriate precautions for the safety of their vessels, passengers and crew. No initiative taken by marina management or staff at any time will impact on or override the absolute legal responsibility of Masters and owners. The Regional Harbour Master (Mackay) may give directions in relation to vessels in Abel Point Marina in cyclonic or other extreme weather conditions. Movement of vessels in and out of Abel Point Marina are self managed subject to any directions given by the Regional Harbour Master. Marina management and staff will not interfere with that status.

Vessels are accepted into the Marina, in accordance with Meridien Marinas Abel Point Pty Ltds standard terms and conditions, and are permitted to remain only on the strict understanding that any decision to berth a vessel or take it out of the marina when a tropical cyclone or other extreme weather is forecast, (in the absence of instructions from Emergency Services or Management or Staff of MMAP), is the sole responsibility of Masters or owners. Meridien Marinas Abel Point Pty Ltd accepts absolutely no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence that results from such decision. Once berthed in the marina, all masters, passengers and crew must immediately comply with any directions given by Emergency Services personnel, Management and staff of Abel Point Marina.

## SAFETY WITHIN THE MARINA

When the design criteria for the marina was established, consideration was given to the likely range of weather conditions that might be experienced in the area and the design and construction of Abel Point was carried out so that the overall structures would withstand expected cyclonic loads while vessels are moored in the berths. Notwithstanding the care taken in establishing design, and construction criteria that were considered to be appropriate, no guarantee can be given that the structures are capable of maintaining their integrity in the complete range of cyclonic conditions, which may occur in the Whitsunday area.

Abel Point Marina is a place of shelter and cannot be guaranteed to be a place of safe haven. Patrons and guests are required to immediately comply with any directions given by Marina Management or staff or Emergency Services Personnel. In the absence of such directions, the decision to remain on board or leave vessels is entirely the responsibility of the Masters and owners or the persons themselves and Meridien Marinas Abel Point Pty Ltd accepts absolutely no responsibility whatsoever for any consequence that results from such decision. The marina may in the event of an emergency and at its sole discretion direct a vessel to locate or relocate. Should the Master or owner of the vessels not be able to move the vessel as directed then the marina retains the right to do so at the risk and expense of the Master or owner. Meridien Marina Abel Point offices are contactable on: 07 4946 2400 or 07 4946 1760. We can also be contacted on VHF channel 9 and 16 and UHF channel 5.



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## THE REGIONAL HARBOUR MASTER (MACKAY)

Contact may be made with the Regional Harbour Master (Mackay) by:

1. Telephone on 07 4944 3700 (office hours); or
2. Telephone on 07 4956 3489 (Hay Point VTS – manned 24 hours); or
3. VHF Channels 18 call sign VTS Mackay

Listening watches may also be maintained by Mackay Air Sea Rescue on VHF Channels 16, 21, 67, 6 and 11. HF Channels 2182 / 4125 and 2524 working channel.

There are 3 main steps that indicate the arrival of a cyclone:

### 1. TROPICAL CYCLONE WATCH – message is announced.

A TROPICAL CYCLONE IS APPROACHING OUR AREA AND IS NOT FORECAST TO ARRIVE IN OUR VICINITY FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS.

- Monitor the cyclone from weather forecasts.
- Cyclone tracking charts and weather forecasts will be available from the marina office, showing the position and progress of the cyclone.

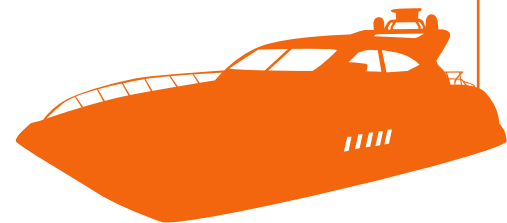
### 2. TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING – is announced.

THE TROPICAL CYCLONE IS PREDICTED TO THREATEN OUR LOCATION WITHIN 24 HOURS.

- Wherever possible, Owners or a nominated contact person will be advised to attend the vessel/s and ensure that they are secured.

8. Stow away all loose gear (buckets, fishing gear etc) below. Deflate and stow inflatable dinghies. Other dinghies should preferably be launched, cleaned out and secured on the inside of A arm, North marina. If left on the deck they should be cleaned out, bungs removed and securely lashed down, preferably overturned.

9. Ensure that all scuppers are clear and will stay clear.
10. Shore power and water leads and gas bottles are to be disconnected.
11. Position adequate spare fenders and lines.
12. Confirm that all bilge pumps are working (first ensure that bilges contain no oil)
13. Radio Communication should be checked on VHF channels 16 then 9.



## 3. TROPICAL CYCLONE IS ON A DIRECT COURSE

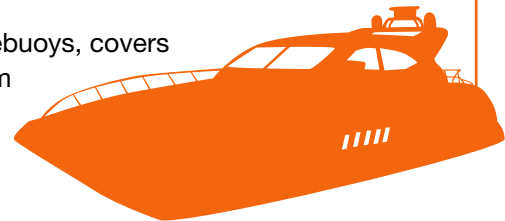
- The tropical cyclone is on a direct course and is predicted to hit at any moment.
- The latest advice can be obtained from the telephone warning service on 1300 659 212.
- Marina patrons and guests are required to follow any official advice given by Marina Management, staff or Emergency Services Personnel.
- If instructed to evacuate by Marina Management, staff or Emergency Services Personnel, ensure utilities are turned off, i.e. water, power and gas
- Wear strong clothing to protect against cuts from debris. Wear strong footwear (not thongs) for protection.
- Be ready to move to higher ground or shelter facilities as directed by Marina Management, staff or Police and Emergency Services Personnel. High winds and flooded roads may be hazards during movement. Advice will be given through local TV, radio and other media. Marina Management, staff or Police and State Emergency Services will also give verbal warnings.

## ACTIONS

- When the cyclone hits, keep calm and stay indoors.
- Stay away from windows.
- Protect yourself with mattresses, pillows and blankets.
- Stay indoors until officially advised that the cyclone has passed.
- Beware of the eye of the cyclone. After the cyclone, listen to the radio. Don't stay in the open and don't go sightseeing.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SECURING VESSELS

1. Mooring lines are to be doubled with secondary lines to alternative cleats. Do not run the secondary lines to the same cleats, as cleat failure will release the vessel from safe mooring. The secondary lines should be secured slightly slack to ensure that they are only required to work if the primary line fails. Ensure lines are of an adequate size to secure the vessel.
2. For Vessels OVER 24 metres - Mooring line should be secured around marina piles where possible.
3. In extreme conditions vessels have a tendency to ride up onto the pontoons. Please ensure that the vessel is positioned in a manner that if the primary lines fail, that there is not enough slack on the secondary lines to allow the vessel to move on to the main or adjacent finger.
4. Ropes and other synthetic fibres such as polyethylene, polypropylene and polyester are all susceptible to U.V. damage from sunlight. All will deteriorate in some way over 1 – 3 years and cannot usually be noticed until the rope is placed under stress. The deterioration occurs very rapidly after U.V. damage commences.
5. Do not use chain to secure the vessel. Chain has no ability to stretch and will damage your vessel or the marina. Anchors may be lowered but ensure that there is enough slack out to compensate for the rise and fall of the swells, surge and tide. Do not anchor over or onto walkways or piles.
6. Check boat cleats for integrity, generally ropes are stronger than these. If there is any uncertainty, secure a line to one of the main structural members. Eg Mast.
7. Reduce wind loading to a minimum. Remove clears and all deck equipment i.e. lifebuoys, covers etc and store below. Remove all furled sails. If this cannot be done, double wrap them to prevent wind from opening them up.



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## POST CYCLONE

As soon as is practical following a cyclone or severe storm event Meridien staff under the supervision and instruction of either the General Manager or the Operations Manager will inspect the marina and land based marina areas in order to ascertain if and what damage has occurred. Reports will be made and presented to the senior managers along with any other reports that may have been received, once the situation has been assessed then any actions or recommendations can be communicated to all vessel owners, tenants and relevant authorities. Please be aware of fallen debris, powerlines and damaged marina structures vessels etc and of movement of emergency personnel and vehicle and only enter the marina environment with the express permission of Meridien staff.

**IT IS THE OWNERS RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR VESSEL IS ADEQUATELY SECURED.  
MARINA STAFF WILL ASSIST WHERE EVER POSSIBLE.**

**!!!!IMPORTANT!!!**

**YOUR SAFETY IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AT ALL TIMES.  
IN THE EVENT OF A CYCLONE, FLYING DEBRIS CAN BE LETHAL. PERSONS WHOM ARE  
LIVING ABOARD VESSELS IN THE MARINA MUST COMPLY WITH DIRECTIONS FROM  
MARINA MANAGEMENT, STAFF & EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL IF DIRECTED.  
BOATS CAN BE REPLACED, LIVES CANNOT!**



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