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**HURRICANE PREPARATION**

WITH THE AID OF MODERN ELECTRONICS AND SATELLITE DATA, THE PRUDENT NAVIGATOR CAN USUALLY AVOID ENCOUNTERING A HURRICANE AT SEA. IN PORT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD AND SEVERITY OF DAMAGE FROM A HURRICANE. BELOW ARE SOME OF THE STEPS I RECOMMEND;

-TAKE DOWN ALL SAILS, MAINSAIL, GENOAS, MIZZENS, ALL SAILS, FLAKE THEM AND STOW THEM BELOW DECK

-TAKE ALL BIMINI TOPS, AWNINGS, WEATHER CLOTHS, ETC. OFF THE FRAMES AND LASH THE FRAMES SECURELY

-TAKE ALL DOWNWIND POLES OFF THE MAST AND SECURE AS LOW ON DECK AS POSSIBLE

-TAPE THE SNAP SHACKLES FOR THE HALYARDS WITH DUCT TAPE OVER SOCKS, AND PULL TO TOP OF THE MAST (DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE ONE TO BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE REST!)

-LASH ALL THE HALYARD FALLS TO THE MAST. NOTHING SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIP IN THE WIND (AND IT WILL IF LEFT UNLASHED)

-TAKE ANY UNDEPLOYED ANCHORS OFF THE BOW WHERE CHAFE COULD OCCUR; LASH THE ANCHORS ON DECK WHERE THEY COULD EASILY BE DEPLOYED IF NEEDED DURING THE HURRICANE

-CAP ALL VENTILATORS

-STOW EVERYTHING ON DECK DOWN BELOW. IF IT CAN GET LOOSE ON DEAK AND CAUSE DAMAGE, IT WILL!

-USE A COMBINATION OF CHAIN AT THE BOTTOME AND LINE TO THE BOAT FOR ANCHORS AND MOORING LINES. ALL CHAIN RODES DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH STRETCH BUT HAVE CHAFE RESISTANCE AND WEIGHT, AND ALL LINE RODES COULD CHAFE . MOORING WEIGHTS ARE A GREAT HELPAND MEGABRAID SEEMS TO HAVE THE BEST STRETCH AND CHAFE RESISTANT CAPABILITITES FOR THESE EXTREME CONDITIONS

-SECURE ALL LINES THROUGH SMOOTH CHOCKS, TO STRONG BACKED UP CLEATS, AND USE FAIR LEADS. HEAVY DUTY SNATCH BLOOKS ARE GREAT IF THE LEAD FROM YOUR CHOCK TO THE CLEAT IS NOT FAIR

-DO NOT RELY ON THE WINDLASS FOR SECURING ANCHORS ON CHAIN OR LINE, USE SNUBBERS.

-CHECK EVERY UNATTENDED BOAT AROUND YOU FOR SECURE MOORING AS THAT WILL BE YOUR GREATEST WORRY.