

## APPENDIX D

### Harbor Hazard Mitigation Plan

September, 2004

#### **120 - Authority**

Unless otherwise indicated, the primary authority for carrying out all harbor activities related to storm preparation, response and recovery is vested with the Portsmouth Harbormaster. Long-term mitigation activities are spread out amongst the appropriate town entities (See section 4.0). To successfully complete the activities outlined in this element, the Harbormaster will need to work closely with other town entities including the: Harbor Commission, the Portsmouth Police and Fire Departments, the Town Planning Department and the Planning Board, the Town Building Official, the Emergency Management Director, and the Department of Public Works.

#### **300 – STRATEGIES FOR PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**

As is the case with many small communities, The Town of Portsmouth does not have the resources or the authority to do everything that is needed to fully prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of a natural disaster. Therefore the Town must work closely with local marina operators, boat owners, and shoreline users to coordinate actions and mutual assistance in the event of an emergency. Strategies and actions by the Portsmouth Harbormaster, local marina operators, individual boat owners, and shoreline property owners are outlined below:

#### **310 – Harbormaster Responsibilities**

Upon advice and consent of the Portsmouth Chief of Police, The Portsmouth Harbormaster will activate the following preparedness, response and recovery plan beginning 72 hours prior to an anticipated severe storm event.

#### **311 – Preparedness – Before the Storm Event**

#### **311A – Level 3 Activities - 72 Hours before the event**

If a hurricane is expected, begin tracking and monitoring hourly weather reports, check with Portsmouth EMA for updates;

- Contact any service providers under contract for after-event activities in order to assess their readiness;
- Contact Save the Bay for fuel spill boom materials to pre-position at Building 48 for immediate post-storm deployment at marina entrances;
- All Harbormaster vessels - ensure fuel tanks are full, reserve batteries are charged, all
- first aid equipment is updated and all other necessary emergency tools and equipment are onboard;
- Contact the Bristol and Tiverton Harbormasters and RIDEM Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure coordinated efforts if necessary;
- Inspect all radio communication equipment and verify working networks;
- Use local media outlets and the Town website to encourage all boat owners with moored vessels to seek safe refuge, remove boats from water, or take action to minimize damaging effects;
- Use local media outlets and the Town website to Alert all local marinas, marine interests, and occupants of special anchorage areas to impending emergency.

### **311B – Level 2 Activities - 48 Hours before the Event**

- Continue to perform Level 3 activities;
- Monitor boat owners with moored vessels for completion of preparedness activities;
- Assist all marina, waterfront business owners and shorefront homeowners with special requests, if possible;
- Finalize emergency work schedule with Portsmouth Police Department command staff;
- Confirm arrangements to have all harbormaster vessels hauled and stored, if necessary;
- Use local media outlets and the Town website to alert the maritime community to any unsafe conditions in Portsmouth waters, as needed;
- Begin regular patrols of all Portsmouth harbors and coastal waters, if possible;
- Use local media outlets and the Town website to alert the local boating

community to any impending closure of anchorages or waterways;

### **311C – Level 1 Activities – 24 Hours before the Event**

- Continue to perform all necessary level 2 activities;
- Perform final patrols of all Portsmouth harbors and waters;
- Inventory all final precautions taken by all marina facilities and shoreline users;
- Clear all public piers of vessels and equipment;
- Top off fuel and inspect condition of all harbormaster vessels and emergency equipment;
- Haul and store all harbormaster vessels, as necessary;
- Complete a final shoreline survey and final harbor check from shore, if necessary.

### **312 – Response – During the Storm Event**

It is the policy of the Town of Portsmouth that emergency watercraft will be dispatched for emergency response during a storm event only at the discretion of the Portsmouth Police and Fire Chiefs. In the event that storm conditions are too severe for Town staff to provide an on-the-water response, requests for assistance will be forwarded to the US Coast Guard.

During the storm event, the Harbormaster will remain on-station at the Portsmouth Police Department and in radio contact with the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as needed. Resumption of on-the-water emergency operations at the conclusion of the storm event will be at the discretion of the Portsmouth Police and Fire Chiefs.

### **313 – Recovery – After the Storm Event**

After a storm event has concluded, the Harbormaster has three recovery priorities:

1. To assess the condition of the Harbormaster Department and reestablish its operational effectiveness as needed;
2. To take the necessary immediate actions to minimize additional risk to life and property;
3. To secure Portsmouth's coastal waters and facilities so that recovery activities can safely begin.

To achieve these priorities, the following sequential actions should take place:

**313A – Immediate (within first 24 hours)**

- Assess the operational readiness of the Harbormaster Department and correct any deficiencies;
- Confirm radio communications with all local emergency efforts;
- Complete a rapid on-the-water assessment of damage and report to the Chief of Police and any other emergency personnel, as needed;
- Coordinate with the Chief of Police to initiate any pre-established contracts for services (towing, salvage, etc), as needed;
- Coordinate with Chief of Police to institute any security measures, as needed;
- Using local media resources, alert the maritime community to any unsafe conditions in Portsmouth's coastal waters and facilities. Report unsafe conditions to USCG.

**313B – Short Term (within two weeks)**

- Complete a comprehensive on-the-water inventory of storm damage and notify the appropriate parties, as necessary;
- Assist any Town and State agencies with damage assessments and any necessary emergency permitting processes.
- Provide a list of unidentified distressed vessels to the USCG and / or RIDEM, as appropriate;
- Contact all local marina operators to assess their situation and coordinate recovery efforts as needed;
- Coordinate with public and private shoreline users and the local Public Works Department to document and attempt to remove any large pieces of floating debris creating an unsafe condition.

**313C – Long Term (within three months)**

- Submit a complete summary report of the impacts of the storm event on Portsmouth's coastal waters and facilities to the Chief of Police and local Emergency Management Director;

- Review Section 4.0 of this plan for the opportunity to implement any long term mitigation projects during the recovery phase of the current storm event;
- Conduct a post-storm meeting for marina operators and shoreline users to identify problems not properly addressed by this plan;
- Coordinate with the Chief of Police, the local EMA Director and Town Planning staff to update any and all provisions this plan based on post-storm evaluation.

### **320 – Harbor and Shoreline Users**

#### **321 – Marina Operators**

By way of coordination with this Harbor Hazard Mitigation Plan, all marina facilities listed in Section 2.1 above shall submit an individual marina facilities hazard mitigation plan to the Harbormaster within 90 days of this document being approved. These facility plans shall be updated annually and any changes must be reported to the Harbormaster by January 1 of each year. At a minimum, these facility plans shall include:

- The primary contact person along with primary and secondary phone numbers;
- The frequencies of all VHF marine radio channels that are continuously monitored;
- A list and contact information of all responsible marina staff who are expected to assist in preparation, response and recovery during a storm-related emergency;
- A list of all hazardous material stored on site (i.e. waste oil, fuel tanks, solvents);
- An inventory of all potential recovery equipment (heavy equipment, generators, etc.) stored on-site;
- A brief narrative describing storm debris disposal plans, including provisions for hazardous waste disposal;
- A notation of any special arrangements made with the Town in regard to storm events;

- An outline of storm preparation, response and recovery activities at the facility including timing of activities and responsible parties.

## **322 – Boat Owners**

### **322A – Local Boat Owners**

All boats moored on town-permitted moorings will be required to submit a storm preparedness plan by filling out a storm preparedness questionnaire as part of the annual mooring renewal forms. For a mooring permit to be approved, the questionnaire must be completed and returned with the mooring application. Boaters will be expected to keep a copy of their plan at all times and to comply, to the best of their ability, with the plan they have prepared. The boat owner should advise the harbor master of any significant changes to the plan made during the boating season.

Individual storm preparedness plans shall include, but not be limited to, the following recommended activities:

- Consider hauling the boat and storing it upland if possible;
- Improve the connection between the vessel and the mooring chain by using chafing gear and extra lines.
- Reduce windage as much as possible by moving all extraneous gear and equipment below deck;
- Whenever possible, increase scope and set out an additional anchor;
- Add shock absorbing tackle to the vessel end of the mooring chain;
- Leave anchor lights and automatic bilge pumps on;
- Make sure all self-bailing cockpit drains are clear of debris and flowing freely;
- And finally, boat owners are strongly encouraged not to stay aboard during a major storm event.

### **322B – Passenger Vessels and Ferries**

Shaw's Water Taxi, based on Prudence Island, is the sole passenger vessel

home-ported in Portsmouth. As part of the Town's long-term mitigation activities outlined below, The Portsmouth Harbormaster will contact the owners of Shaw's Water Taxi to coordinate their own storm preparedness, response or recovery plans with the provisions of this plan.

### **323 – Shorefront Property Owners**

All shorefront homeowners and waterfront business owners are expected to take the necessary precautions to protect their own property.

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