

# **GOLDEN**<sup>®</sup> *Boat Lifts & Marine Systems*

## **Boat Lift Hurricane Prep Plan**



# HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BOAT LIFT FOR A HURRICANE: A Guide by Golden Boat Lifts

## Understanding Hurricanes, Warnings & Hurricane Season

### **What is a Hurricane?**

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, a powerful storm system characterized by a low-pressure center, strong winds, and heavy rain. Hurricanes form over warm ocean waters and can cause devastating damage when they make landfall, including flooding, high winds, and storm surges.

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speeds, using the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:

- Category 1: Wind speeds of 74-95 mph (119-153 km/h)
- Category 2: Wind speeds of 96-110 mph (154-177 km/h)
- Category 3: Wind speeds of 111-129 mph (178-208 km/h)
- Category 4: Wind speeds of 130-156 mph (209-251 km/h)
- Category 5: Wind speeds of 157 mph or higher (252 km/h or higher)

### **Different Warnings for Hurricanes**

Understanding the different types of hurricane warnings can help you prepare and respond appropriately to these storms:

#### 1. Hurricane Watch

- Definition: A hurricane watch is issued when there is a possibility that hurricane conditions could affect a specific area within 48 hours.
- Actions: Begin preparing your home, secure outdoor items, and review your evacuation plan. Stay informed through local weather updates.

#### 2. Hurricane Warning

- Definition: A hurricane warning is issued when hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected in a specific area within 36 hours.
- Actions: Complete all preparations and evacuate if instructed by local authorities. Seek shelter in a safe location away from flood-prone areas.

#### 3. Tropical Storm Watch

- Definition: A tropical storm watch is issued when there is a possibility that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39-73 mph) could affect a specific area within 48 hours.
- Actions: Monitor weather updates and begin initial preparations for potential impacts.

#### 4. Tropical Storm Warning

- Definition: A tropical storm warning is issued when tropical storm conditions are expected in a specific area within 36 hours.
- Actions: Secure loose items, stay indoors, and be prepared for potential power outages and flooding.



# Understanding Hurricanes, Warnings & Hurricane Season

## **HURRICANE SEASON**

Hurricane season is the period during which hurricanes are most likely to form and affect coastal areas. The timing of hurricane season varies by region:

- Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1 to November 30
- Eastern Pacific Hurricane Season: May 15 to November 30
- Western Pacific Typhoon Season: Typically, from May to December, but typhoons can occur year-round in this region
- Indian Ocean Cyclone Season: April to December in the northern Indian Ocean; November to April in the southern Indian Ocean

During hurricane season, it is crucial to stay informed about weather forecasts, have a preparedness plan, and be ready to act if a storm threatens your area. Regularly check updates from the National Hurricane Center and local authorities to ensure you are prepared for any potential hurricanes.



# Planning Before The Hurricane

Preparing your boat lift for a hurricane is crucial to protect your investment and ensure the safety of your vessel and property. Golden Boat Lifts provides this comprehensive guide to help you take the necessary steps to secure your boat lift before a hurricane strikes. These are recommendations as Golden Boat Lifts is not liable for any damage done to your boat or lift when mother nature strikes.

## **1. Stay Informed**

- Monitor Weather Reports: Keep an eye on local weather forecasts and updates from the National Hurricane Center.
- Understand Warnings: Know the difference between hurricane watches and warnings to gauge the level of preparation required.

## **2. Inspect and Maintain Your Boat Lift**

- Routine Inspection: Regularly inspect your boat lift for any signs of wear, damage, or corrosion. Pay special attention to cables, pulleys, and structural components.
- Lubricate Moving Parts: Ensure all moving parts are well-lubricated to prevent rust and ensure smooth operation.
- Check Electrical Components: Inspect all electrical connections and components for signs of wear or damage. Make sure the power source is secure and functioning correctly.

## **3. Call Your Insurance Company**

- The first thing any boat lift owner should do above all else is to call their insurance company to see what the insurance company would want you to do and how they want you to properly store your boat and boat lift in a hurricane situation.
- Make sure your insurance is up to date and will cover any damages done by the storm.

## **4. Remove Boat from Boat Lift**

- Remove your boat from the lift and store it in a secure location, such as a garage or a dry storage facility.

## **5. Secure the Boat Lift Structure**

- Anchor the Lift: Ensure the boat lift is properly anchored to the dock or seabed. Check all anchor points and reinforce them if necessary.
- Remove Accessories: Remove any accessories, such as canopies, covers, and personal items, that can become projectiles in high winds.
- Protect Electrical Systems: Disconnect power to the lift and secure electrical systems to prevent water damage and electrical hazards.



# Planning Before The Hurricane

## 6. Create a Hurricane Plan

- Emergency Contacts: Have a list of emergency contacts, including local authorities, marine services, and insurance companies.
- Insurance Documentation: Keep your boat lift and boat insurance documents in a safe, easily accessible place. Take photos of your boat lift and boat for documentation purposes.
- Evacuation Plan: Have a clear evacuation plan for yourself and your family. Know the safest routes and local shelters.

## 7. Regular Drills and Updates

- Conduct Drills: Regularly practice your hurricane preparation plan to ensure you and your family know what to do.
- Update Plans: Review and update your hurricane plan annually or whenever there are changes to your boat lift or property.

By following these steps, you can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your boat lift and boat during a hurricane. Golden Boat Lifts is committed to helping you protect your investment and ensuring your safety. Stay prepared and stay safe.



# **Post Hurricane Boat Lift Safety & Inspection Guide**

After a hurricane, it's crucial to ensure that your boat lift is safe and secure before resuming its use. Here's a step-by-step guide on what you should do to check and secure your boat lift:

## **1. Ensure Personal Safety First**

- **Wait for Official Clearance:** Do not return to your property until local authorities have declared it safe.
- **Wear Protective Gear:** Equip yourself with appropriate safety gear, including gloves, boots, and protective eyewear.

## **2. Initial Visual Inspection**

- **Structural Integrity:** Check for any visible signs of damage to the boat lift structure, such as bent or broken beams, loose bolts, or cracked welds.
- **Surrounding Area:** Inspect the dock and surrounding area for debris that may have caused damage to the lift.

## **3. Detailed Component Inspection**

- **Cables and Pulleys:** Examine the cables for fraying, kinks, or broken strands. Check pulleys for damage and ensure they are properly aligned and rotating smoothly.
- **Electrical Systems:** Inspect all electrical connections and components for water damage, corrosion, or dislodged wires. **Ensure the power is still disconnected before doing this.**
- **Hydraulic Systems:** If your lift uses a hydraulic system, check for leaks, damaged hoses, or malfunctioning components.

## **4. Operational Test**

- **Power Restoration:** Once the electrical inspection is complete and no damage is found, restore power to the lift.
- **Test Lift Movement:** Carefully operate the lift without a boat to ensure it moves smoothly up and down. Listen for any unusual noises that could indicate a problem.
- **Weight Test:** Gradually increase the load on the lift, starting with lighter items before attempting to lift the boat. Monitor the lift's performance closely during this test.

## **5. Check Boat Placement and Securing Mechanisms**

- **Boat Alignment:** Ensure the boat is properly aligned and seated on the lift. Misalignment can cause stress on the lift components.
- **Securing Straps:** Verify that all securing straps or tie-downs are intact and have not been damaged by the storm.

## **6. Documentation and Professional Assessment**

- **Document Damage:** Take photographs and detailed notes of any damage found. This will be useful for insurance claims and professional assessments.
- **Contact Professionals:** If you discover significant damage or if you are unsure about the lift's condition, contact Golden Boat Lifts or a certified marine technician for a thorough inspection and necessary repairs.



# **Post Hurricane Boat Lift Safety & Inspection Guide**

## **7. Maintenance and Prevention**

- **Lubricate Moving Parts:** Apply lubrication to moving parts such as pulleys, gears, and bearings to prevent rust and ensure smooth operation.
- **Replace Damaged Components:** Replace any damaged cables, pulleys, or structural components immediately to avoid further issues.
- **Review and Update Hurricane Plan:** Reflect on the effectiveness of your pre-hurricane preparations and make any necessary adjustments to your hurricane plan.

By following these steps, you can ensure that your boat lift is safe and secure after a hurricane, minimizing the risk of further damage and ensuring the safety of your vessel. Golden Boat Lifts is here to assist with any questions or concerns you may have about your boat lift's condition and maintenance.

For more information or assistance, contact Golden Boat Lifts at <https://goldenboatlifts.com/download-brochure/>

## **The Golden Difference**

At Golden, we pride ourselves in being the innovators of our industry. We have even prepped your lifts to be operational after a power outage, with just a cordless drill. This ensures safety and accessibility no matter the conditions.

## **Disclaimer:**

This guide is provided by Golden Boat Lifts as a reference to help you prepare your boat lift for a hurricane and to inspect it after a storm. However, Golden Boat Lifts is not responsible for any damage to your boat, your boat lift, or any personal injuries that may occur during a hurricane or as a result of following this guide.

Hurricanes are unpredictable and can cause severe damage despite the best preparations. It is important to use your judgment and consult with professionals when needed. Always prioritize personal safety and follow official guidelines and directives issued by local authorities.

For any specific concerns or questions regarding the maintenance and repair of your boat lift, please contact a certified marine technician or Golden Boat Lifts directly.



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