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United States Coast Guard

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Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 26-006, Storm Drawbridge Closure Process

April 30, 2026

This MSIB clarifies the drawbridge closure process during major storm events for the Miami COTP area of responsibility as defined in 33 CFR § 3.35-10.

Port Condition Whiskey - Sustained tropical storm force winds (39-54 mph / 34-47 knots) are predicted to arrive within 72 hours.
Port Condition X-Ray - Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected within 48 hours.
Port Condition Yankee - Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected to arrive within 24 hours.

- COTP will exempt drawbridges from opening regulatory requirements, enabling bridge owners to begin bridge lockdowns. The bridge lockdown process ***may*** begin as early as **16 hours** prior to the arrival of sustained tropical storm force winds in some instances, which will result in some bridges unable to open well before full bridge lockdown is achieved prior to the arrival of sustained tropical storm force winds. Due to safety concerns of personnel, bridge lockdowns are typically only able to be completed during daytime hours.

Port Condition Zulu - Sustained tropical storm force winds are expected within 12 hours.

- Anticipate bridge lockdown may be completed as early as **8 hours** prior to the arrival of sustained tropical storm force winds.

Bridge Resources

- Bridge operations will be coordinated through respective Emergency Operation Centers until the COTP determines that resumption of bridge operations is safe.
- All storm documents will be published on navcen.uscg.gov under "Port Conditions"
- Additional pre- and post-hurricane information will be distributed by the COTP via MSIB and USCG Sector Miami social media platforms.

Please understand that these timelines are guidance and may change at any time due to specific storm track and intensity forecasts.

Please direct any questions regarding this MSIB to Sector Miami's Waterways Management Division at (786) 295-9051 or Command Center at (833) 642-7271.

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