

# ***Defender***<sup>®</sup>

## **Sailboat Storm Preparation Checklist**

### **Before the Storm Hits**

- ☐ Monitor weather forecasts continuously.
- ☐ Review your boat insurance policy; confirm storm coverage.
- ☐ Prepare a storm plan (relocation, contact numbers, etc.).
- ☐ Assign storm preparation responsibilities if you have crew.

### **Securing the Sailboat**

- ☐ Choose a safe location (hurricane hole, marina with floating docks, or haul-out if possible).
- ☐ Double all dock lines with extra chafe protection.
- ☐ Tie lines at high and low tides if tidal surge is expected.
- ☐ Use long spring lines to reduce stress on cleats.
- ☐ Remove sails (main, jib, genoa, spinnaker) and stow below deck.
- ☐ Remove or secure the boom.
- ☐ Secure or remove antennas, wind vanes, and radar domes.
- ☐ Remove canvas dodgers, bimini tops, and cockpit enclosures.

### **Anchoring (If not docked)**

- ☐ Use multiple anchors in a V or Y configuration.
- ☐ Ensure each anchor has appropriate scope (minimum 7:1).
- ☐ Inspect anchor chain and rode for wear.

### **Electrical & Mechanical**

- ☐ Disconnect shore power and battery chargers.
- ☐ Ensure bilge pumps are operational and strainer is clear of debris.
- ☐ Test float switches and backup systems.
- ☐ Secure fuel and water tank caps tightly.
- ☐ Lubricate winches, windlass, and steering components.

### **Securing Rigging and Loose Gear**

- ☐ Remove or lash down halyards to reduce windage.
- ☐ Secure or remove life rings, cushions, and fenders.
- ☐ Remove or tie down anything on deck and in the cockpit.
- ☐ Store electronics, charts, and valuables below deck or ashore.

### **Protect Openings**

- ☐ Close and secure all hatches, ports, and lockers.
- ☐ Tape or seal companionway and windows.
- ☐ Install storm boards or hatch covers if available.

## Documents & Inventory

- ☐ Take photos of the sailboat and equipment for insurance.
- ☐ Document and inventory all gear and systems.
- ☐ Keep copies of registration, insurance, and contact info in a safe place.

## Emergency & Contact Info

- ☐ Inform marina or Harbor Master of your storm plan.
- ☐ Ensure VHF radio is charged and functional.
- ☐ Keep a list of emergency numbers and procedures readily available.

## After the Storm

- ☐ Assess damage carefully; photograph everything before cleanup.
- ☐ Check for hull breaches or water intrusion.
- ☐ Inspect standing and running rigging for stress or damage.
- ☐ Notify your insurance provider promptly if there is damage.
- ☐ Ventilate interior and dry out all electronics and textiles.

## Recommended Equipment Checklist

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchors & Sea Anchors                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tape (Duct, Repair, Sail) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Anchor Line                               | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Dock Lines                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotlights                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chafe Gear                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Foul Weather Gear         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fenders   | <input type="checkbox"/> Harnesses and Tethers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hooks & Snubbers                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Jackets              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Shackles                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Jacket Re-Arm Kits   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Plugs / Drain Plugs                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Utility Line        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portable Fuel Tanks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Bilge Pumps, Strainers, Switches       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bilge Alarm                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual Bilge Pump                               | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Straps/ Tie Downs (Sail, Dodger, General)       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Batteries                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights and Headlamps                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Batteries                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handheld VHF Radio                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Tool Kit (Testers, Tape, Connectors) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Tool Kit                              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knife and Rigging Kit                           |  |