

## WET SEASON ADVICE TO MASTERS

Darwin's Wet Season nominally runs between 1 October and 30 April annually.

During the Wet Season, severe thunderstorms and associated squalls can develop and approach the Port from any direction with little or no warning. Every vessel must be secured with no less than two good lines ahead and astern, plus a good spring both fore and aft. These lines must be placed on bollards and not on fender piles.

Vessels rafted off must be well secured to the inboard ship and have head and stern lines to shore bollards.

Port procedures require that competent persons must be always aboard vessels. Any vessel found to be inadequately moored or inadequately attended may be ordered off the berth.

Vessels must not be immobilised for any period without obtaining written permission from the Senior Manager, Marine Operations (SMMO). An immobilisation application form can be downloaded from Darwin Port's website at: [Application to Immobilise](#)

## TROPICAL CYCLONE INSTRUCTIONS TO MASTERS

The Tropical Cyclone season occurs between 1 November and 30 April each year, but Tropical Cyclones can occur outside these dates.

All vessels within the Port of Darwin must carry current editions of Nautical Charts AUS 25 and 26 or approved electronic alternatives.

All vessels must be equipped with VHF radio, capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF channels 16, 10, 12, 6 and 67. **Channel 10 is Darwin Port's working frequency.**

Vessels must not be immobilised for any period without obtaining written permission from the SMMO. An immobilisation application form can be downloaded from Darwin Port's website at: [Application to Immobilise](#)

The Ship's Master must ensure sufficient crew are on board to move the vessel if directed by the SMMO or their delegate.

During the Wet (cyclone) season, vessels will not be permitted to use the small craft anchorage area adjacent to Stokes Hill Wharf, unless written permission is granted by the SMMO or their delegate.

## CYCLONE PROCEDURES

Masters and owners of vessels are responsible for:

- Ensuring that a Cyclone Contingency Plan is in place for their ship;
- Ensuring familiarity with the advice contained in the Mariners Handbook NP100 regarding navigable and dangerous semicircles of Tropical Revolving Storms;
- Ensuring the safety of their vessel and crew;
- Ensuring their vessels are properly secured;
- Adhering to all directions issued to them by the SMMO or their delegate; and
- Bearing the cost of any damage caused by their vessels to Port Infrastructure and/or other vessels.

## IF A CYCLONE ADVICE IS DECLARED

Information regarding the position, projected track, formation and strength of winds can be obtained from the [BOM website](#) or Darwin Harbour Control on VHF Channel 10.

As soon as Darwin Port is aware of the declaration of a Cyclone Advice all vessels within Port limits will receive information on the cyclone advice.

Vessels may be ordered to vacate their berth and proceed to sea or to seek cyclone refuge if it is considered that there is a threat of gale force winds impacting the Port of Darwin earlier than forecast.

Ships Masters must place their vessels on not less than four hours' notice of readiness and confirm this with the SMMO via Darwin Harbour Control on VHF Channel 10.

Vessels must be fully manned and preparations to secure the vessel for sea at short notice are to commence.

All vessels lying at wharves will be instructed to double up mooring lines or to pass extra mooring lines necessary for safety.

## CARGO HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

Whilst vessels are permitted to remain alongside, only general and dry cargo will be allowed to be discharged, and then in quantities no greater that can be cleared inside one hour. Likewise, loading of cargo will be restricted to quantities that can be called forward and loaded inside one hour.

Tanker operations will only be permitted if the pipeline can be cleared and disconnected, and the vessel made ready for sea within four hours.




## IF A CYCLONE WATCH AND ACT IS DECLARED

A cyclone Watch and act is declared when a tropical low or cyclone is expected to cause gale force winds in greater Darwin within approximately 24 hours.

The SMMO via Darwin Harbour Control on VHF Channel 10 will advise whether the port is open or closed or will advise the time when the port will be closed.

When a watch and act has been issued by NT Emergency Services, and the decision to close the port has been made, all vessels alongside or at anchor will be directed to put to sea, move to their cyclone mooring or seek cyclone refuge. All vessels equipped with VHF radio shall maintain a continuous watch on Channels 10 and 16. Vessels must remain outside port limits or in their designated position until the port is re-opened. At that time, directions will be given concerning re-berthing procedures via VHF radio or other means. Requests for assistance will be attended to as soon as possible.

**DARWIN PORT CYCLONE PLAN 2024-2025 SUMMARY**

DP REPOSE STAGES	
Pre-Season Readiness	Cyclone procedure and Work Instructions reviewed and updated. Port users informed of cyclone precautions. Revised Cyclone Procedure distributed to staff and stakeholders. Cyclone exercises carried out.
Stage 1 - Advice 	Actions as per Stage One requirements in Cyclone Plan. Work instructions completed by designated staff members. Ships placed on four hours' notice of readiness.
Stage 2 – Watch and Act 	Actions as per Stage Two requirements in Cyclone Plan. Key staff report to designated work areas. Work instructions completed by designated staff members. Ships placed on one hour's notice of readiness. Vessels may leave the Port of Darwin of their own accord.
Stage 3 – Emergency Warning 	Actions as per Stage Three requirements in Cyclone Plan. Work instructions completed by designated staff members. All equipment secured. Essential service vessels taken to designated cyclone refuges. Vessels to leave port or proceed to designated cyclone moorings or refuges. All staff leave worksite and take shelter if directed by the CEO. Harbour Control services suspended if the Port of Darwin is closed.
Cyclone past Darwin	Key personnel report to allocated work areas. Preparation for declaration of all clear. Plan for opening of Port agreed and communicated to stakeholders.
Post Cyclone Initial Assessment	All staff report to work once it is safe to do so. Damage and Port of Darwin assessment commenced. Harbour safety assessed.
Post Cyclone Recovery	Staff availability confirmed. Communication systems re-established. Equipment damage reports completed and damage mitigation actioned.
Stand Down	Cyclone damage mitigation completed. Debrief of cyclone response. Cyclone Plan updated where necessary.

## CYCLONE CATEGORIES

Category	Maximum Mean Wind (km/h)	Typical Strongest Gust (km/h)	Typical Effects
1	63 - 88	<125	Damaging winds. Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings.
2	89 - 117	125 – 164	Destructive winds. Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small boats may break moorings.
3	118 - 159	165 - 224	Very destructive winds. Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failure likely.
4	160 - 199	225 – 279	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failure.
5	>200	> 279	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

## CONTACTS

Darwin Harbour Control: VHF Channel 10 or (08) 8919 0821

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