



Severe Weather Plan

Change - 5

NOTE: All recent changes are indicated by a vertical line next to the change.



Date: April 2026

Georgia Ports Authority

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1. **PURPOSE:** This Severe Weather Plan (SWP) is a set of recommendations based on data analysis and experience. The SWP is not designed or intended to be foolproof, nor can following the SWP ensure against property damage, personal injury or loss of life. It is the GPA’s intent that, when followed, the SWP will provide a more efficient method of preparing for severe weather that will help mitigate damages and provide for a more safe and secure workplace.

It’s intended to maximize the protection of personnel and preservation of property in the event of a natural disaster by effective utilization of manpower and resources available. In order to achieve these goals, this plan will address actions that must take place during the four phases of emergency management. These phases are as follows.

- 1.1 Mitigation to reduce the severity of hazards that can be managed, or to minimize the damaging effects of those beyond human control;
- 1.2 Preparedness to ensure a total readiness to properly react and respond to a major emergency or disaster.
- 1.3 Response through cooperation and awareness amongst all departments.
- 1.4 Recovery to establish normal business operations as soon as possible.

2. **INTRODUCTION:** The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) Severe Weather Plan is divided into sections based on the type of hazard.

- 2.1 Warnings, Cautions, and Notes

WARNING

Indicates an operating procedure, practice, etc., which, if not correctly followed, could result in personal injury or loss of life.

CAUTION

Indicates an operating procedure, practice, etc., which, if not strictly observed, could result in damage to or destruction of equipment.

NOTE

An operating procedure, condition, etc., which is essential to highlight.

3. **SCOPE:** This plan applies to all GPA facilities, departments, and personnel.

4. **POLICY:** In accordance with the GPA Safety Policy, the GPA hereby establishes and implements a severe weather plan that fully meets the requirements of all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. All GPA departments will conduct annual training on this plan to ensure GPA preparedness.

5. **DEFINITIONS:**

Definition of Terms	
Audible Alarm	A noise producing alarm that is connected to the readouts on the cranes, it will sound when the wind speed reaches 35 mph (Pre-alarm). When the wind is 42 mph or greater, both the RED visual and audible alarm will activate. (Warning alarm)
Anemometer	An instrument for measuring and indicating the force or speed of the wind. All STS cranes are equipped with anemometers. A fixed anemometer is located on a pole in Container Berth 03 (CB03). A remote display head is located inside the Container Operations Building (Annex 3.)
All Clear	Weather-related operation limits have been lifted and operations may be resumed.
Cranes	Includes STS container and gantry cranes.
Dock Crane	A crane designed primarily for handling containers and breakbulk to and from dockside vessels.
GPA	Georgia Ports Authority
HURRICANE CATEGORIES	<p>Category 1 - Winds of 74 to 95 miles per hour (64 to 83 knots). Damage primarily to shrubbery, trees, and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage to structures. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Low-lying coastal roads inundated, minor pier damage, some small craft in exposed anchorage torn from moorings.</p> <p>Category 2 - Winds of 96 to 110 miles per hour (84 to 96 knots). Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage; some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage to poorly constructed signs. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. No major damage to buildings. Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water two to four hours before arrival of hurricane center. Considerable damage to piers. Marinas flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages torn from moorings.</p> <p>Category 3 - Winds of 111 to 130 miles per hour (97 to 113 knots). Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down. Practically all poorly constructed signs blown down. Some damage to roofing materials of buildings; some window and door damage. Some structural damage to small buildings. Mobile homes destroyed. Serious flooding at the coast and many smaller structures near the coast</p>

	<p>destroyed; large structures near the coast damaged by battering water and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives.</p> <p>Category 4 - Winds of 131 to 155 miles per hour (114 to 135 knots). Shrubs and trees blown down; all signs down. Extensive damage to roofing material, windows, and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many small residences. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore due to flooding and battering by waves and floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before hurricane center arrives. Major erosion of beaches.</p> <p>Category 5 - Winds greater than 155 miles per hour (136 knots). Shrubs and trees blown down; considerable damage to roofs of buildings; all signs down. Very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors. Complete failure of roofs on many residential and industrial buildings. Extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors. Some complete building failures. Small buildings overturned or blown away. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Low-lying escape routes inland cut by rising water three to five hours before the hurricane center arrives.</p>
HURRICANE CONDITIONS	<p>Condition 5 - This is a stand down condition set from 1 December to 31 May each year except when modified by a rare winter hurricane.</p> <p>Condition 4 - A seasonal Hurricane Condition automatically set by all units on 1 June each year and extending through 30 November unless otherwise directed by the Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District. A heightened condition of readiness is set when an approaching tropical storm has winds in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) and is 96 hours from landfall for unit purposes and 72 hours from landfall for port and marine purposes. Action listed under a given hurricane condition may be initiated earlier. The pace of preparation must be such that requirements of a given hurricane condition are completed, if at all possible, before storm proximity mandates setting the next condition. Progression from Condition 4 directly to Condition 1 is quite possible, since accurate hurricane paths are difficult to predict.</p> <p>Condition Three - A condition to indicate winds in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) are expected within 48 hours. This roughly corresponds to the National Hurricane Center's "Hurricane Watch," which is defined as an announcement from the National Hurricane Center that a hurricane poses a threat to a coastal inland community within 24 to 48 hours.</p> <p>Condition Two - A condition of warning of the probability of winds in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) within 24 hours. This corresponds to the National Hurricane Center's "Hurricane Warning" which is defined as a warning that one or both of the following dangerous effects of a hurricane are expected in a specified coastal area in 24 hours or less:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. 2. Dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves, even though

	<p>winds expected may be less than hurricane force.</p> <p>Condition One - A condition of maximum preparedness for winds in excess of 50 knots (58 mph) expected within 12 hours.</p>
HURRICANE FORCE WATER (as it affects the coastal areas and structures)	<p>Hurricanes can cause flooding of coastal areas in two ways – from a storm surge or seiche. While over the ocean, the high winds in the hurricane can generate waves up to 50 feet or more, and the drop in atmospheric pressure helps create large swells. As the hurricane approaches the shoreline, a seiche occurs when changes in the bottom topography and the coastal configuration causes a mound of water to build up out at sea which comes cascading across low lying areas in a series of giant waves, flooding vast areas in a matter of minutes. With a different bottom topography, a storm surge can occur in which the mound of water will hit the shoreline with waves smaller than those in a seiche, but combined with the normal tide, the mean water level can rise 15 feet or more. This will cause flooding of low-lying areas at a rate of 2 to 5 feet per hour – more gradual than with a seiche but just as dangerous. The pounding waves and strong currents produced by a storm surge or seiche can destroy buildings and/or erode their foundations causing them to collapse. Of the deaths occurring during a hurricane, 90% are caused by drowning during the flooding accompanying these waves.</p>
HURRICANE FORCE WINDS	<p>Present two primary dangers. First, a hurricane may produce a sufficient drop in atmospheric pressure outside a closed structure that the normal pressure inside causes the structure to explode and collapse. Secondly, as the wind velocity increases, the horizontal pressure it exerts against buildings and vessels increases proportionally with the square of the wind velocity. Thus, if the wind velocity doubles, the force exerted against structures is four times as great. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will issue the following warnings when winds are forecast or are occurring at the speeds indicated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gale Warning: Winds 39 to 54 mph (34 to 47 knots) 2. Storm Warning: Winds 55 to 75 mph (48 to 63 knots) 3. Hurricane Warning: Winds over 75 mph (63 knots)
MPH	Miles per hour
OPCON	<p>Operational conditions are implemented by Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) using the following criteria:</p> <p>OPCON 5 – Preparedness activities. Normal operations and Atlantic Basin monitoring.</p> <p>OPCON 4 – Enhanced monitoring. Potential impacts within 120 hours.</p> <p>OPCON 3 – Alerting and strategic planning. Potential impacts within 72 hours.</p> <p>OPCON 2 – Readiness and staging. Potential impacts within 48 hours.</p>

	<p>OPCON 1 – Final staging. Potential impacts within 24 hours.</p> <p>Response – Initiates between immediately after impact and 72 hours.</p>
<p>PORT CONDITION</p>	<p>Maritime Hurricane Port Readiness Conditions are set by COTP MSU Savannah and are used to alert the maritime community to changes in port operations in preparation for a hurricane's arrival. An official announcement of Port Condition change will be made by COTP based on predictions of storm track and timing of when gale force winds from a hurricane-force storm are predicted to arrive at ports within the Savannah COTP zone. These predictions are based on information obtained from NWS (National Weather Service). The intent of setting Port Readiness Conditions is to provide the maritime community with ample time to prepare and prevent damage from impending heavy weather.</p> <p>Port Condition Whiskey – Gale force winds are predicted to arrive within 72 hours. Ports Status: Open to all commercial and recreational traffic.</p> <p>Port Condition X-Ray - Gale force winds are predicted to arrive within 48 hours. Ports Status: Open to all commercial and recreational traffic.</p> <p>Port Condition Yankee - Gale force winds are predicted to arrive within 24 hours. Ports status: Closed to inbound traffic and vessel traffic control measures in effect on vessel movements within the port.</p> <p>Port Condition Zulu - Gale force winds are predicted to arrive within 12 hours. Ports Status: Closed to all inbound and outbound traffic.</p> <p>Port Condition Recovery - The storm is no longer a threat to the area; however, some damage may have occurred, and response and recovery operations are in progress. Ports status: Reopened to outbound traffic at completion of port survey. Vessel traffic control measures remain in effect on vessel movements within the port.</p>
<p>RTG</p>	<p>Rubber Tired Gantry</p>
<p>Secure in Place</p>	<p>Empty Container Handler – Exit the empty container stacks, away from falling hazards.</p> <p>Jockey Truck (JT) – Exit the container stacks, away from falling hazards.</p> <p>Rubber Tired Gantry – Operators cease operation, enter park mode in a safe place and connect the spreader to a 20-foot loaded container that is in the 1-high position located in either the A-tier of the stack or the truck lane.</p> <p>Rail Mounted Gantry – Pinned in the appropriate storm pin location</p> <p>Ship-to-Shore (STS) Crane - Boomed up and/or boomed down (middle of vessel if working) and has all storm pins inserted into pin holes.</p>

Severe Thunderstorm Watch	Means there is the potential for severe thunderstorms (damaging winds/large hail) to impact your area within the next 6 hours.
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Means a severe thunderstorm is occurring or will likely occur soon. If you are advised to take shelter, do so immediately.
Spreader	Container handling attachment secured, via cables, to an RTG, RMG and/or STS
Stowed	Means that the STS Crane is boomed-up and has been secured by inserting storm pins. Note: In preparation for Hurricane Conditions – fully secure hurricane tie-downs. No further crane operation permitted until "All Clear" is received.
Tornado	The National Weather Service (NWS) defines a tornado as a violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground.
Tornado Watch	A tornado watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a tornado to occur.
Tornado Warning	A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar within an area. This indicates an imminent risk to life and property. NWS recommends immediately seeking safe shelter inside a sturdy building; move to the interior room on the lowest floor and stay away from windows.
Visual Alarm	An AMBER light (mounted on the visual indicator screen) will activate when the wind speed reaches 35 mph or greater. (Pre-alarm). A RED light (mounted on the visual indicator screen) will activate when the wind speed reaches 42 mph sustained.
Warning Alarm	When the wind is 42 mph sustained, both the RED visual and audible alarm will activate.
Weather ALERT	An indication from a meteorologist or emergency services that adverse wind and weather conditions are in the region and expected in the immediate vicinity.
WIND Condition Normal	Wind velocities in the Garden City area are between 0-29 mph.

6. HURRICANE PROCEDURES: Georgia’s hurricane season automatically begins on June 1st each year and extends through November 30th unless otherwise directed by the Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District. Each Department shall establish and maintain detailed departmental procedures for actions they will take whenever a hurricane is forecasted to be 120, 96, 72, 48 and 24 hours out before the arrival of gale force winds. Below are the minimum steps each department needs to take. The department’s plan shall be maintained by the department’s safety representative and an updated copy shall be sent to Corporate Safety and Risk Management. Each department shall review their plan before entering hurricane season to ensure both familiarity with the plan and that adequate resources are on hand.

Please note: Georgia Ports does not allow any vessel to remain in port with an imminent threat of a hurricane. Escalation of Port Readiness Conditions is under sole discretion of US Coast Guard COTP and all port users are to abide by conditions set forth.

6.1 120 Hours Before Hurricane Force Wind Arrival: The Director and/or Manager of Ship Operations will contact the local USCG Marine Safety Unit and discuss the intentions of USCG with the threat of the impending storm. Forthcoming plans will be communicated to the Sr. Director of Operations regarding USCG intentions and the potential timing of Port Readiness Condition change.

- Monitor weather reports sent by Ship Operations and/or Port Police.
- Review department plan.
- Evaluate structural maintenance considerations; flood mitigation; storm shutters; back-up power; accessibility considerations; and emergency repairs.
- Update critical workforce list (to include critical vendors).
- Update vendor contacts and assure they are notified of all updates.
- Review checklist from Storeroom for available supplies.

6.2 96 Hours Before Hurricane Force Wind: The Director and/or Manager of Ship Operations will conduct a teleconference with the Heavy Weather Advisory Group (HWAG) and USCG officials and other Port Users to discuss impending storm track and preparation for Port Readiness Condition change.

- Monitor weather reports sent by Ship Operations and/or Port Police.
- Review Department Plan
- Managers and supervisors shall meet to discuss procedures for securing the terminal.
- Validate contact list and accountability reporting procedures.

6.3 72 Hours Before Gale Force Wind (Port Condition Whiskey): The Director and/or Manager of Ship Operations will conduct another teleconference with the Heavy Weather Advisory Group (HWAG) and USCG officials to evaluate the updated storm track and discuss preparation for Port Readiness Condition change.

- Monitor weather reports sent by Ship Operations and/or Port Police.
- Review Department Plan.
- Department leadership shall meet with Port Police and Maintenance personnel to discuss progress of securing the terminals.
- Ensure accountability of all department personnel and their intentions (evacuate or shelter-in-place).
- Conduct mandatory update meeting with all direct reports on the following:
 - Impending storm
 - Department plan
 - Family plans
 - Last Man Out
- Validate construction sites are secure.
- Notify personnel who will be responsible for helping secure the terminal.

6.4 48 Hours Before Gale Force Wind (X-Ray): Another teleconference will be conducted with HWAG and USCG officials to evaluate the updated storm track and discuss preparation for Port Readiness Condition change. Monitor weather reports sent by Ship Operations and/or Port Police.

- Review Department Plan.
- Department leadership shall meet to designate the last supervisor out. Corporate Safety and Risk Management shall be notified of each department's anticipated last supervisor out.
- Begin consolidating personnel on shifts and eliminating all unnecessary activity.
- Ensure accountability of all department personnel and their intentions (evacuate or shelter-in-place).

6.5 24 Hours Before Gale Force Wind (Yankee): The Director and/or Manager of Ship Operations continues to inform Sr. Director of Operations and Emergency Manager of HWAG conference calls. Port Readiness conditions are under Condition Yankee at this time.

- Departments shall finalize tie-down locations for equipment, tie as many cranes down as possible.
- Begin lock-down of all equipment not necessary for current operation.
- Strap all end caps on empty bays.
- Notify vendors/contractors/lease customers about proper securement of their respective work areas.

7. RE-ENTRY PROCEDURES: Following a hurricane evacuation, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) will issue a re-entry authorization order via radio and television. Depending on the severity of the storm, the re-entry authorization will be broken into five phases. The GPA will post communication updates on the company website and through Everbridge messages.

7.1 Phase 1 Re-Entry: Properly credentialed GPA police officers who are part of a render safe team will be permitted access at this phase to establish command and control of GPA facilities.

- Establish a Command Center.
- Conduct patrols of all accessible areas to assess terminal security and property damage. Pay attention to hazards such as downed power lines.
- Ensure Hazmat technicians inspect hazardous cargo areas as needed.
- Notify leadership of inspection results.

7.2 Phase 2 Re-Entry: GPA critical workforce personnel, contractors (authorized only) working for the GPA will be permitted access to its facilities with proper credentials and state issued re-entry permits, as outlined within the GEMA/HS hurricane plan.

- Report to terminal Command Center for update brief on hazards and conditions.
- Begin conducting departmental damage assessments. Pay attention to hazards such as downed power lines. Utilize Industry Safe to capture hazards found.
- Notify Port Police immediately of any hazards that could result in a loss to life, limb, or eyesight.
- Continue to update department leadership of your findings.
- One point of contact for each department should update the Port Police Command Center on assessment findings.

7.3 Phase 3 Re-Entry: GPA employees not requiring emergency access during Phase 1 or Phase 2 will be permitted to access GPA facilities.

- Report to department supervisor for update brief on hazards and conditions.
- Begin inspecting areas not yet covered by Phase 1 or Phase 2 personnel. Pay attention for hazards such as downed power lines.
- Utilize Industry Safe to capture hazards found.
- Notify Port Police immediately of any hazards that could result in a loss to life, limb, or eyesight.
- Continue to update department leadership of your findings.
- One point of contact for each department should update the Port Police Command Center on assessment findings.

7.4 Phase 4 Re-Entry: Consists of residents and those who own property or business in the impacted areas of the country.

- Contact your supervisor for instructions.

7.5 Phase 5 Re-Entry: General Public may re-enter.

- Contact your supervisor for instructions.

8. TORNADO PROCEDURES:

8.1 Tornado Watch: When the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch, it will be received on weather alert radios located in key departments/offices on terminal. Whenever a tornado watch is issued, everyone should remain alert for approaching storms. All personnel should closely monitor weather conditions and consult with their respective supervisors regarding working conditions. All personnel should be prepared to act quickly if a warning is issued from weather officials and/or your manager. Be prepared to seek shelter. Upon hearing the announcement of a TORNADO WATCH, Port Police will be responsible for notifying all the departments on terminal. The notification will include the following information/instructions:

- GPA (terminal) is under a **TORNADO WATCH**
- Time tornado watch expires
- Normal routine will not be interrupted unless a TORNADO WARNING is issued, or

winds reach a sustained speed of 28 MPH for Empty Depots or 42 MPH for Berths and Field Operations.

- If the weather radio or outside sirens indicate a tornado warning for a terminal's county, proceed immediately to the nearest designated tornado shelter in your area. (See section 7.3)

**WARNING: EMPTY
DEPOT**

When winds reach a sustained speed of 28 MPH or a tornado warning is issued, all empty container field operations will cease – employees should immediately vacate all empty container stack areas. Gate Operations will not issue tickets for the Empty Depot until 10 minutes pass without gusts above 35 mph. **Management shall notify personnel of a wind/tornado event work stoppage.**

**WARNING: BERTHS
AND FIELD OPERATIONS**

Berth and Field Operations will cease when winds reach a sustained speed of 42 MPH, or a tornado warning is issued. All cranes shall either be "Secured in Place" or "Stowed," depending on ability to safely gantry (travel) the crane. **Management shall notify personnel of a wind/tornado event work stoppage.**

8.2 Tornado Warning at Work: When the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning, weather radios and/or the tornado sirens will be activated. All individuals on GPA property will proceed to the nearest designated tornado shelter area in the immediate area where they are located. Shelter areas depend on your location at the time of the tornado warning.

8.2.1 Faculty Members/Supervisory Personnel Will:

- Direct occupants to proceed in a quick and orderly manner to the nearest designated shelter area in the building.
- Instruct occupants not to leave the building.
- Provide assistance to persons with disabilities.
- Accompany occupants to the nearest designated shelter area in the building.

8.2.2 Employees Will:

- Proceed to the nearest designated shelter area in their immediate area by the quickest route.
- Move quickly but in an orderly manner so that all may arrive safely.
- Crouch in the shelter area with hands over head for protection (if unable, calmly remain standing).

8.3 Shelter Areas:

8.3.1 **Garden City Terminal:**

- Administration Building - First floor away from windows, such as a restroom.
- Annex 1 (H.R., EHS) Areas without windows.
- Annex 2 (Port Polices/Corporate Safety) – Auditorium.
- Annex 3 - (Container Operations Building) - Away from windows, seek shelter in “Control Center” area, Locker rooms, side halls away from windows and doors.
- Container Port Building (Gate 4) – Seek shelter in lower floor hallway (keep away from doors and windows).
- Maintenance Building – Crane Operations breakroom and hallways.
- Marine Control Buildings - Lower floor away from windows.
- Mason ICTF – Office restrooms
- Rae’s Hall Building - Interior room away from windows and exterior walls.
- Warehouse 83 – Manager’s Office.
- World Trade Center - Interior room away from windows and exterior walls.

8.3.2 **Ocean Terminal**

- Port Police / Gateway Building by stack 186 – Away from windows and exterior walls.
- Warehouse 2 – Inside mobile trailer

8.3.3 **Mayor’s Point Terminal**

- Administration Building - First floor conference room, first floor hall by elevator.
- Warehouses – Pumphouse or restrooms

8.3.4 **Colonel’s Island Terminal**

- Port Police Building - Away from windows and exterior walls.

8.3.5 Bainbridge Terminal

- Administration Building - Away from windows and exterior walls.

8.3.6 Appalachian Regional Port

- Tornado Shelter

8.4 Tornado Warning Outside of Work: The following information may help to protect you if you're in the vicinity of a tornado while outside of work.

8.4.1 If in a building:

- Go to the lowest level of the building.
- Go to an interior hallway or a smaller interior room without windows.
- Get away from the windows.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.
- If in a mobile building/structure, get out and find shelter elsewhere if time and conditions permit.

8.4.2 If outside:

- If possible, get inside a building.
- If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or crouch near a strong building.
- Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.

8.4.3 If in a car:

- Never try to out drive a tornado. Get out of the car and take shelter in a nearby building if time and conditions permit.
- Make sure seatbelt is fastened.
- If shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or crouch near a strong building.
- Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Use arms to protect head and neck.

9. HIGH WIND PROCEDURES: All STS Cranes and RMGs are equipped with anemometers. A fixed anemometer is located on a pole in Container Berth 03 (CB03). A remote display head is located inside the Container Operations Building (Annex 3.) Crane operators shall report any instances of high wind indicated by the wind indicator on that crane.

9.1 Weather Alert: Winds Over 25 mph

9.1.1 Warehouses: (CES, Maintenance, Mayor's Point, Bainbridge)

- Inspect and secure outside areas of loose debris and equipment as needed.
- Monitor warehouses for leaks and damage due to high winds.

9.1.2 Container Yards and Rail: (Savannah Terminals, Appalachian Regional Port, Gainesville Inland Port)

Empty Yards

- Area Foremen will check empty container bays in their respective yard for single tiers over two high and will assign operators within the empty container area to assist with identifying and correcting any single-tier concerns.
- GPA Management will assign a member of the administrative team for each work shift to assist in identifying (through Navis) potential bays that could be impacted by a high wind event.
- Bays with single-tier concerns will be un-stacked/broken down or additional empty containers will be added to the bay.
- If stack preparation is required by another shift, Area Foremen will communicate the bays of concern to the next shift foremen and management team.
- All updates will be handled accordingly through Navis to maintain proper empty container inventories.

Import/Export Area (RTGs & RMGs)

- Advise Yard Foremen of weather alerts.
- Print out empty bay list for Foremen.
- Yard Foremen will check bays in their respective yard for single-tier container stacks, over two-high, and will assign operators within the area to assist with identifying and correcting any tier concerns.
- Monitor areas for high winds.

9.1.3 Berths: (Crane Department)

- Immediately, upon notification of adverse conditions from contract weather service, notify all crane operations of alert conditions.
- Monitor area for high winds.
- Notify Stevedores and COPS of alert conditions.
- Report any instances of high wind indicated by wind indicator on that

crane.

Weather Alert: Sustained Winds at or Above 28 MPH

**WARNING: EMPTY
DEPOT**

When winds reach a sustained speed of 28 MPH or a tornado warning is issued, all empty container field operations will cease – employees should immediately vacate all empty container stack areas. Gate Operations will not issue tickets for the Empty Depot until 10 minutes pass without gusts above 28 mph. **Management shall notify personnel of a wind/tornado event work stoppage.**

9.1.4 Container Yards and Rail: (Savannah Terminals, Appalachian Regional Port, Gainesville Inland Port)

EMPTY DEPOT

- If we are experiencing **wind gusts** in this range the management team will continue to monitor the area and will be prepared to stage Empty Container Handlers away from the empty yard stacks.
- If we are experiencing **sustained winds** in this range, the Empty Container Yards/Stacks shall be shut down to all traffic (OTR, Ship, and GPA). Empty Container Handlers will be staged outside the empty container yard.
- When the order is given to cease operations, operators will remain in their machine and away from any stacked containers until 10 minutes pass without gusts above this limit (28 mph). If winds persist in being out of the limits or are forecasted to remain out of the limits, operators will be directed to come inside. When winds reach a sustained speed of 28 MPH or a tornado warning is issued, all empty container field operations will cease – employees should immediately vacate all empty container stack areas. **Management shall notify personnel of a wind/tornado event work stoppage.**
- Jockey Truck operators are to exit the stacks, away from possible falling hazards.
- **Gate Operations** will not issue tickets for the Empty Depot until 10 minutes pass without gusts above 28 mph.
- **Port Police** will monitor areas and assist yard management and foremen in ensuring all traffic has been removed from the yards. Gate Operations will temporarily suspend the processing of inbound empty containers off

Import/Export Area (RTGs) & Mega Rail (RMGs)

- Advise Yard Foremen of weather alerts.
- Print out empty bay list for Foremen.
- Yard Foremen will check bays in their respective yard for single-tier container stacks, over two-high, and will assign operators within the area to assist with identifying and correcting any tier concerns.
- Monitor areas for high winds.

9.1.5 Crane Department

- Notify management team and communicate with other operators and maintenance personnel to coordinate securing/stowing cranes, if necessary.
- Monitor area for high winds.
- Notify Stevedores and COPS of alert conditions.
- Report any instances of high wind indicated by wind indicator on that crane.

9.1.6 Maintenance Department

- Under alert conditions, supervisor shall check or assign someone to check equipment Storm pins.

9.2 Weather Alert: Winds at or Above 40 mph.

9.2.1 Warehouses: (CES, Maintenance, Mayor's Point, Bainbridge)

- Secure outside area of loose debris and equipment.
- Monitor warehouses for leaks and damage due to high winds.

9.3 Weather Alert: Winds at or Above 42 MPH

**WARNING: BERTHS
AND FIELD OPERATIONS**

Berths and Field Operations will cease when winds reach a sustained speed of 42 mph, or a tornado warning is issued. All Cranes shall either be "Secured in Place" or "Stowed," depending on ability to safely gantry (travel) the crane. ***Management shall notify personnel of a wind/tornado event work stoppage.***

9.3.1 Container Yards and Rail: (Savannah Terminals, Appalachian Regional Port, Gainesville Inland Port)

- If winds reach a sustained speed of 42 mph, RTGs and RMGs will be secured in place.

9.3.2 Crane Department

NOTE: *No personnel will be permitted on or in cranes during high wind periods when cranes are in "stowed position."*

- Cease operations and secure crane, either "Secured in Place" or "Stowed," depending on ability to safely gantry (travel) the crane.
- Immediately, upon notification of adverse conditions from contract weather service or crane wind indicator, notify all crane operations of alert conditions.
- Monitor area for high winds.
- Notify Stevedores and COPS of alert conditions.
- Report any instances of high wind indicated by wind indicator on that crane.

9.3.3 Maintenance Department

- Provide support services to Container and Cranes Operations during *Wind Alert* conditions.
- Assist with securing in place and stowing RTGs, RMGs, and STS Cranes.
- Communicate inclement weather conditions with third party vendors to allow adequate time for site/service area clean up.
- If the wind gusts in excess of 42 mph but not long enough to sound the alarm, the Maintenance management team will make a personal assessment as to the safety of continued operations. If the Maintenance management team deems further operations unsafe under the existing conditions, the management team shall order Maintenance operations to be stopped.
- Report any instances of high wind indicated by wind indicator on that crane.

10. Heavy Rainstorm: Heavy rain not only causes low visibility, but the inability to brake quickly due to hydroplaning.

10.1 Breakbulk: (Brunswick)

- Ensure all storm drains are cleared and not blocked / clogged with debris.
- Close all warehouse and shed doors that are not vital to operations. (Close all doors once the storm arrives).
- Sandbag around doors which cargo is more perceptible to moisture damage.

- Ask GPA Port Police for their support in providing spot checks of areas that are of concern to management during non-working hours.

11. LIGHTNING PROCEDURES: No place outside is safe when lightning is in the immediate area.

11.1 Lightning Within 5 Nautical Miles:

DO's

- Remain indoors.
- Remain inside your vehicle (closed vehicles only).
- Crane Operators shall remain inside their cab if it is safe to do so. The goal is to prevent crane operators from climbing up and down cranes in the middle of a lightning storm.

DONT's

- Stay in open vehicles, structures, and spaces.
- Stand or lean near tall structures.
- Lie or lean on concrete walls.

12. ICE/SNOW/FREEZE PROCEDURES: It is the responsibility of the Facilities Assistant Manager to take all precautionary steps necessary to prevent freeze damage to sprinkler systems, stand-pipes and water lines. Facility Maintenance shall also be responsible for ensuring adequate supply of sand and calcium chloride prior to winter months. The assistance of other departments may be required at various times.

**WARNING: FIRE
WATCH**

Anytime a fire protection system to include sprinklers is inoperable, a fire watch must be maintained.

12.1 24 Hours Out:

- Make sure sand/calcium chloride is onsite 24 hours prior to the event.
- Have the spreader machine mounted in the bed of truck 24 hours prior to the

event.

- Have two frontend loaders onsite 24 hours prior to event.

12.2 12 Hours Out: Spread sand/calcium chloride at the following locations:

- Bridges
- Docks
- Roadways
- Parking lots
- Sidewalks
- Scales
- RTG pads
- Reefer Racks ground levels
- RSA Canopies

Note: Clean-up efforts shall take place after the event.

12.3 Dry Sprinkler Systems: There are dry systems on the rail docks which should have no water in the system. Facilities are to make sure all heaters are in working order prior to any storm related events and that rail docks have no water / moisture in the system.

12.4 Wet Sprinkler Systems:

- Close main valve in valve house.
- Open all drains in protected area and allow water to completely evacuate the sprinkler system.
- Notify Port Police to provide the necessary fire watch.

12.4.1 Standpipes (Wet System)

- Close four (4) inch valve in valve house.
- Open drain in valve house.
- Connect fire hose to standpipe connection.
- Open valve and drain system to outside of protected area.

12.5 Heaters:

- Check valve house heaters and make sure they are in working order.
- Check warehouse heaters on wet systems and make sure they are in working order.
- Check heat tape and exterior piping and make sure it's in proper working order.

REVISION HISTORY			
Revision	Description of Change	Author	Effective Date
June 2020	NEW	Steven Peschock	May 26, 2020
July 2022	Change – 1	Steven Peschock	July 9, 2022
June 2023	Change – 2	Steven Peschock	June 8 th , 2023
March 2025	Change -3: Section 6 – changed all arrival times from landfall to arrival of gale force winds.	Steven Peschock	April 15, 2025
August 2025	Change -4: Section 8&9 – Warning: Berth and Field Operations: Included all cranes vs. only STS	Steven Peschock	August 12, 2025
April 2026	Change -5: Section 8 and 9 – Changed 30 and 35 mph to 25 & 28 mph. Added Gainesville. Section 8 Removed Live Lift, GCT Docks, Changed Warehouse 27 to 83. Added RMG to “secure in place” section in Definitions. Section 12.3 – Revised, Section 12.5 - Added	Steven Peschock	April 21, 2026

NOTE: All recent changes are indicated by a vertical line next to the change.