

# HOWE MARINE SURVEYS

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Located at East End Boat Park, adjacent to Independent Boat Yard, St Thomas, VI

In an effort to share tips and advices learned through many years of surveying damages on various vessels, Captain William Howe has prepared the following list of **TIPS FOR MARINERS**.

1. When preparing a vessel for the approach of a tropical wave, depression, tropical storm or hurricane, be sure to **close all seacocks**, except the cockpit scupper seacocks. Leave the cockpit scuppers open to allow rain water and sea spray to drain out of the cockpit.

During one tropical storm, a large sailboat was blown onto soft sand in shoal water and would have suffered minimal damage. However, since the galley and head sink seacocks were left open, seawater flooded the vessel while the yacht was careened on its side. The interior was partially filled with seawater, causing damage to the engine, refrigeration, electrical systems and cabinetry. It was an unnecessary loss.

2. If you have the time when preparing for the arrival of a hurricane or tropical storm, **consider removing your vessel's lifelines and the vertical pieces of your two piece stanchions** (base & vertical) from their bases along the gunwale of your sailboat.

If you are ashore in a safe haven, you will not need the lifelines and stanchions to hold on to during the storm. If they are removed, that will keep them undamaged and they cannot engage stanchions or lifelines on a neighboring boat and cause unneeded damage.

3. If you are securing your sailboat alongside other sailboats in a rafting or marina setting, **stagger the adjacent sailboats** so that the mast, spreaders and standing rigging of your boat will not engage the neighboring boats.

During a storm, the wind and waves will hit each boat at a different time and each boat will respond and roll differently. If your masts are adjacent to one another, there is a strong chance that they will catch on one another, causing unneeded damage. Move your boat fore or aft to keep the spars and rigging apart.

4. Boat/US has done research showing that **polyester (Dacron) dock lines resist chafe much better than nylon**. In fact, they have conducted experiments that showed that nylon anchor or dock lines would melt when mounted within rubber hose or tubing chafe gear!! Apparently, the friction between the strands of the stretchy nylon line, created so much heat that the nylon line was able to part.

The recommendation from Boat/US is to use polyester lines at chafe points. Make a short polyester pennant that passes over the bow chock or by the bobstay to use between the bow anchor and the anchor line. Use the nylon line where you want to have the strength and the stretching behavior. Use the polyester line at the chafe points.

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Quality Surveys since 1986

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