



**MINISTRY OF METEOROLOGY, ENERGY, INFORMATION, DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

As it is the Tropical Cyclone season, the Division of Disaster Management (also known as the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO)) would like to take this opportunity to assist in your preparations.



In case of a Tropical Cyclone or any disaster related emergency we suggest you:

- Have a plan and be familiar with it
- Have your 72 hour emergency bag ready
- Listen to your Town officer for further information and advice
- Always listen to the radio for weather updates from Tonga Meteorological Services

**TIPS FOR BOAT OWNERS (FISHING, TRANSPORT, TOURISM)**

Please take steps to keep your boats safe during the cyclone season. It is your responsibility to take care of your vessel/s, at all times. Here are some gentle reminders:

- Tonga Met is the official weather service for the Kingdom of Tonga providing regular updates daily.
- Tune into Radio Tonga to get up to date information on Tonga weather

**Pre-cyclone preparations**

- Move the vessel out of the water if you can. Protect it if you can't
  - If your boat can be moved out of the water, haul it out and move it to a safe location, if there are mangroves in your community, store it behind the mangroves, as far from the waters as possible, to avoid potential storm surges and away from trees that could fall.
  - If it will remain on a mooring, ensure the mooring is strong enough to hold the load of your boat. Inspect chains and swivels that connect to the mooring buoy and double up on the mooring pendant.
  - Pre-cautionary measures should be taken to minimise the risk of the boat sinking from the heavy rains
- If possible, remove all items (particularly loose items). Make a list of your belongings that you leave on the boat. Also consider taking photos/videos of your boat and what you have on board before leaving.
- Keep all key documents in a safe place – where possible, on USBs or electronically (email)
- Place your contact details in the window of your vessel, in the event that someone else needs to board or it goes adrift and can contact you easily

**When you receive a cyclone alert/ warning**

- Pay attention to the weather and marine bulletins.
- If you have not moved your boat out of the water, it is recommended you do so to safe locations (see pic below).
- Smaller outboards should be removed and stored in a safe place.
- If you can tie the boat to the ground with ropes please do so for additional safety.
- Remove all moveable equipment: canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, biminis, roller furling sails.
- Lash down everything you cannot remove: tillers, wheels, booms.
- Remove, secure and tape anything inside your vessel that could cause more damage.

**When you receive a cyclone alert/ warning (...cont)**

- Items of value should be marked for easy identification if lost. Label dinghies, paddle boards, kayaks, life jackets, include phone numbers. Tie it down.
- Branches, roofing tin or planks of wood should be cleared from the area to minimise potential damage to the vessel/s.
- If you cannot move the vessel from the water, protect it by securing the vessel, as a last option, in mangrove areas. Ideally the vessel should be tied from multiple points to strong mangrove roots and pulled as far into the mangroves as possible.

**During**

- Do not stay onboard.
  - Have a plan to evacuate, know where the closest emergency evacuation centre is and have a plan to get there as quickly and safely as possible **before** it becomes unsafe and too difficult.
  - Listen to the radio for updates
- Cover all lines to prevent chafing – strong winds will create waves even in an enclosed harbour and leads to boats chafing through their mooring lines. Adding additional mooring lines or chafe protection can reduce this risk
- Note - vessels left in the water and not properly secured are usually destroyed either by other vessels breaking their moorings and drifting down on them or by breaking their own moorings and running aground or hitting other vessels.
- Shut off all devices that consume electricity.
- Beware of the eye of the storm, do not move until you have been advised that it is safe to do so.

**After**

- Remain cautious after a cyclone has passed and wait until advised it is safe to do so.
- Check your vessel for damage once it is deemed safe and feasible to conduct your inspection
- Listen to the radio or check the Tonga Met website for the latest weather and marine updates

