

# Preparing Marinas for the Off Season

CHUBB®



## **Haul Out and Storage Safety Checklist for Marinas and Yacht Clubs**

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Chubb's Marine Facilities' loss control specialists are pleased to share with you this exclusive publication on safety basics for marina off season preparation. These six checkpoints may help you identify and reduce the likelihood of an incident that could impact your income and damage your reputation.

To learn more about Chubb Marine Facilities insurance products for commercial marinas and yacht clubs, please contact [MarineFacilitiesInfo@chubb.com](mailto:MarineFacilitiesInfo@chubb.com).

### **General Safety is #1**

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- ☐ Mobile Boat Hoists and Marine Forklifts: operators should be experienced and certified through a program that meets OSHA requirements
- ☐ Federal, state or local requirements: check and determine applicability

- ☐ Develop standard written operating procedures for hauling out and storing boats
- ☐ Yards and storage areas: check that they are neat and clear of obstructions
- ☐ Transport boats: as close to the ground as possible
- ☐ Experienced personnel: designate adequate ground crew and a team of spotters when moving large boats around the facility

### **Self-Propelled Trailers**

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- ☐ Conduct daily inspection to ensure that vehicle is roadworthy and safe to operate
- ☐ Hydraulics: check hose and fluid level
- ☐ Tires: check condition and pressure
- ☐ Controls/instruments: check for working condition
- ☐ Boat is positioned squarely on trailer: re-launch if necessary

## Mobile Boat Hoists

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- ☐ Know the hoist
- ☐ Conduct daily inspection to ensure that vehicle is roadworthy and safe to operate
- ☐ Cables: check for damage; run out to fully inspect
- ☐ Slings: discard and replace if damaged or if red tracer threads are visible
- ☐ Protect slings from chafing
- ☐ Sling attachment points: check that pins are not bent or distorted
- ☐ Hydraulics: check hoses and fluid level
- ☐ Bolts: check that none are loose
- ☐ Tires: check condition and pressure
- ☐ Controls/instruments: check for working condition
- ☐ Fluid levels: check levels and examine for leaks
- ☐ Beware of surroundings: clear path, no overhead obstacles
- ☐ Use a spotter
- ☐ Slings: set at sling marks, not on underwater appendages
- ☐ Use safety lines on slings to prevent sliding
- ☐ Load balanced and within capacity
- ☐ Annual inspection/certification current

## Marine Forklifts

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- ☐ Conduct daily inspection to ensure that vehicle is roadworthy and safe to operate
- ☐ Forks: inspect covers
- ☐ Hydraulics: check hose and fluid level
- ☐ Tires: check condition and pressure
- ☐ Controls/instruments: check for working condition
- ☐ Fluid levels: check levels and examine for leaks
- ☐ Carriage and mast marked: aligned to prevent damage
- ☐ Line up square when picking boat
- ☐ Load balanced and within capacity
- ☐ Watch for appendages such as trim tabs, transducers, and speedometers

- ☐ Lift at the flattest section of hull
- ☐ Never lift a boat with anyone aboard
- ☐ Check swing clearance: use spotter
- ☐ Fire extinguisher: mounted on forklift
- ☐ Use seatbelt
- ☐ Check wheel stops at launch site for condition and stability; come to a controlled stop gently against the stops, and do not rely on the bulkhead wheel stops to stop the forklift's momentum

## Blocking

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- ☐ Support keel on sturdy wooden keel blocks
- ☐ Consider the condition and slope of the ground, and take the size, shape, weight and condition of the boat into account
- ☐ Tripod jack stands: place at least two on each side for support only, ensuring proper spacing is organized based on boat type and they are arranged to properly balance the boat and stay level
- ☐ Placement of jack stands: at structural bulkheads and distributed to prevent high point loading
- ☐ Support jack stand bases: with plywood ground pad to prevent sinking into the ground
- ☐ Check stands routinely during storage season and adjust as necessary following freeze/thaw cycles, on soft ground, and before, during, and after storms
- ☐ Ensure jack stands are appropriately sized for the boat
- ☐ Safety chains: under keel to opposite jack stand and adequately secured to prevent lateral movement
- ☐ Do not use cinder blocks, oil drums, or similar non-recommended blocking devices
- ☐ Allow drainage of rain water through scuppers or deck drains

## Rack Storage

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- ☐ If drain plugs are left in place, consider the weight of trapped firefighting or rain water against rack load limitations; include management of flooded vessels in emergency response plans
- ☐ Batteries disconnected or master battery switch turned off
- ☐ Portable power cords prohibited
- ☐ Charging of batteries prohibited
- ☐ In-rack boat repairs are prohibited; provide service racks for cleaning and work
- ☐ No unattended portable heaters
- ☐ No open flame heaters
- ☐ Use of gasoline or flammable solvent cleaners prohibited
- ☐ Remove hazardous materials including LPG and CNG cylinders, portable fuel tanks, reserve supplies of stove alcohol, kerosene and charcoal
- ☐ Fuel tanks should be no more than 95% full to prevent expansion and fuel venting onto boats below

## Contact Us

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