

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Maritime Subsector

Criminal Activity

The maritime subsector is composed of waterways and ports which encompasses both recreational and commercial maritime activities including the cruise, shipping, and fishing industries amongst others. The subsector may be a likely target for criminal actors seeking to take advantage of its extensive international network and vast resources.

1. **Cyberattacks** – Cyberattacks remain a serious threat to operations within the maritime subsector. In recent years, the maritime subsector has experienced continued phishing attacks and malware intrusions. Given that many maritime industry components rely on internet connectivity and radio communications, it is important that these entities consistently update and patch networks to keep these systems safe from cyber threats. [Cyberattack Lands Ship in Hot Water](#)
[Maritime Industry Sees 400% Increase in Attempted Cyberattacks Since February 2020](#)
2. **Illicit Smuggling** – Criminal actors frequently use maritime vessels to smuggle illicit items including weapons, drugs, and people. Illicit items are often hidden within permitted cargo like produce but may also be hidden within vessel compartments too. [CBP Officers Recover 40 Stolen Vehicles at Savannah Seaport](#)
[How the US Coast Guard Patrols the Sea for Contraband](#)

Other Threats and Hazards

The maritime subsector is necessary for the timely transport of people and goods. As such, events that disrupt maritime operations can have serious economic consequences with cascading effects.

1. **Natural Threats** - Natural disasters have the potential to halt routine maritime operations thereby disrupting routine flows of goods and people. [How Adverse Weather Impacts the Shipping Industry](#)
[Hurricane Dorian Disrupts Cruise Itineraries and Port Operations](#)



Florida Fusion Center
(800) 342-0820

FLBusinessSafe@FDLE.state.fl.us

Author: FL8507, Approval: FL8600, HSEC-1, HSEC-4, HSEC-6, FSIN-1, FSIN-4

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges to the maritime subsector as maritime travel and cargo shipments remain low.

[Maritime Shipping and Security Weather a Hard Hit from Coronavirus](#)

- 2. Hazardous Materials Incidents** – The maritime subsector is essential to the transport of hazardous materials. These materials may be shipped and stored in close proximity to other critical infrastructure components. Although extremely rare, incidents that jeopardize the safe handling of these materials could have severe economic and human consequences.

[Firefighters Deal with Hazardous Chemical Leak at Port Miami](#)

Resources

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration provides a variety of resources for maritime entities in respond to COVID-19.

[U.S Maritime Administration: Coronavirus Guidance](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard provides information on recognizing and responding to cyber threats against maritime vessels.

[Cyber Adversaries Targeting Commercial Vessels](#)

[Cyber Incident Exposes Potential Vulnerabilities Onboard Commercial Vessels](#)

Florida's Ports Council provides continuous updates for Florida's Seaports' response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[COVID-19 Updates from Florida's Seaports](#)

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