

Office of Risk Management
RISK ALERT
No. 2018-09

RE: Hazardous Weather Outlook

August 4, 2018

The National Weather Service has issued a **Hazardous Weather Outlook** for western central and northeast Massachusetts and Rhode Island today and tonight. A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect throughout this afternoon. Showers and embedded thunderstorms with pockets of torrential rainfall may produce one- to two-inch-per-hour rainfall rates. This will result in the potential of localized urban as well as small stream flash flooding.

The Office of Risk Management urges you to take the following precautions:

- Have custodians check drains, grates and basins to ensure they are free of leaves and debris.
- Check to see if sump pumps are working.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage to people or property.
- Remove dead or rotting branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- Shutter windows. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades or curtains.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Use a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.

If outdoors, avoid the following:

- Natural lightning rods, such as tall, isolated trees in an open area.
- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.
- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal, such as lawn mowers, motorcycles, golf clubs and bicycles.

After the storm, be sure to inspect basements and roofs for leaks and flooding. In addition, inspect the grounds for weak or damaged tree limbs and have these removed immediately.

Property Damage

Property damage caused by lightning, including damage caused to electrical appliances and wiring, is covered under the property and insurance program. If you experienced a lightning strike that caused damage, contact the Claims Manager immediately at 617-746-5743. If you have any questions, please call the Office of Risk Management at 617-746-5742.