

RISK ALERT 2021-07

Tropical Storm Warning, Flash Floods

July 8, 2021

The National Weather issued a Tropical Storm Warning in effect from July 8, a Flash Flood Warning in effect from July 9, and NOAA Hurricane Local Statement for southern New England.

Tropical Storm Elsa is forecast to track near Block Island and the south coast Friday. The strongest winds should arrive Friday morning and will be focused on areas near the coast, especially on Cape Cod and the Islands. The threat for flooding rain should be greatest across interior southern New England where the heaviest rain is expected to fall. Elsa will rapidly exit the region by Friday night.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Flooding Rain

Prepare for life-threatening rainfall flooding having possible extensive impacts across interior southern New England. Potential impacts include:

- Major rainfall flooding may prompt many evacuations and rescues, especially in urban areas.
- Rivers and tributaries may rapidly overflow their banks in multiple places. Small streams, creeks, and ditches may become dangerous rivers.
- Streets and parking lots become rivers of moving water with underpasses submerged. Driving conditions become dangerous. Many road and bridge closures could occur.

Wind

Prepare for dangerous wind having possible significant impacts near the South Coast, Cape Cod, and the Islands. Potential impacts in this area include:

- Some damage to roofing and siding materials, along with damage to porches, awnings, carports, and sheds.
- Potential for severe damage to large trees, especially in places where trees are shallow-rooted.
- Some roads may be impassable from large debris, and more within urban or heavily wooded places. A few bridges, causeways, and access routes may be impassable.
- Power and communications outages possible, but more prevalent in areas with above-ground lines.

Tornadoes

Prepare for a tornado event having possible limited impacts across Southern New England. Potential impacts include:

- The occurrence of isolated tornadoes can hinder the execution of emergency plans during tropical events.
- A few places may experience tornado damage, along with power and communications disruptions.
- Locations could realize roof damage, large tree tops and branches snapped off, shallow-rooted trees knocked over, and small boats pulled from moorings.

We urge 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 causes damage, please fill out the following online form:

[Link here](#)