

**Fides Insurance Group
Diocese of Springfield
RISK ALERT
No. 2021-14**

Re: River Flood Warning and Flash Flood Warning

September 2, 2021

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings for several areas in western Massachusetts from now until 9:30 pm this evening. Several area rivers are rising towards or have crested above moderate flood stage. This includes the following rivers: the Mount Hope River at Warrentonville, the Quinnipiac River at Southington, West Branch Farmington River at New Boston, Westfield River at Westfield, Hockanum River at East Hartford, and North Branch Park River in Hartford. Rivers that were in minor flood included the Quinebaug River at Quinebaug, and the Willimantic River at Coventry. There are likely other rivers and streams that are producing minor to moderate flooding in the warning area.

Some locations that will experience flash flooding include: Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, New Britain, West Hartford, Bristol, Manchester, Chicopee, East Hartford, Enfield, Southington, Westfield, Holyoke, Shrewsbury, Glastonbury, Newington, Vernon, Windsor, Agawam and West Springfield.

Any areas of significant urban and poor drainage flooding may take several hours or more to fully recede.

We urge you to make the following preliminary preparations:

- **Take precaution if traveling.** Roads may be closed due to flooding or downed power lines.
- **Continue to check sump pumps to ensure they are working properly.**
- **Check that all drains, grates and basins are free of leaves and debris.**
- **Anchor outdoor items**, such as trash cans and lawn furniture, or bring them into an enclosed area.
- **Inspect every level all buildings on your premises for water, especially those that have been unoccupied.**
- **Immediately inspect trees.** If a tree branch (or an entire tree) falls on an electric line, call 9-1-1. Do not touch the branch or the electric line. Power lines are not insulated; if you touch one, you will be severely injured or even killed.
- **Be prepared for power outages.** Have an emergency supply kit on hand, including water, flashlight, extra batteries, a first aid kit and non-perishable food. Disconnect appliances and other electrical items that will automatically go on when service is restored. Power surges can cause significant mechanical damage. Before the storm arrives, fully charge your cellular phone and other electronic devices, as well as rechargeable batteries.

Reporting a Claim

If you experience property damage or injury as a result of the storm, report the claim immediately at 617-746-5743 and notify Dawn Makusiewicz (413-452-0696) and Russ Sprague (413-452-0695), or submit an online form at <https://springfieldrisk.org/property-claim-report/>. For a list of service vendors, go to: <https://springfieldrisk.org/vendors/>.