

Ratio Risk Services / Diocese of Springfield
RISK ALERT
No. 2022-06

RE: High Winds and Heavy Rains

February 15, 2022

Gale force winds and heavy rain are expected to arrive tomorrow, **February 16**, in the evening, into **Friday, February 17**, morning.

Winds with gusts up to 40 mph could damage property and cause power outages, while heavy rains combined with recent snow accumulation pose a flooding risk.

We urge you to make the following preliminary preparations:

- **Prepare for wind damage.** Some trees in our area may be more susceptible to high winds. Immediately inspect trees and bushes. Remove dead or rotting branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- **Secure outdoor objects** that could blow away or cause damage to people/property. Be sure to **anchor** outdoor items such as trash cans and lawn furniture or bring them into an enclosed area.
- **Check sump pumps to ensure they are working properly.**
- **Check that all drains, grates and basins are free of leaves and debris.** Recent snow accumulation increases the risk of potential flooding, and this will likely be the wettest February in at least nine years.
- **Be prepared for potential 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.

Property Damage

If you experience property damage or injury as a result of the storm, report the claim immediately at 617-746-5743 and notify Ashly Patry (413-452-0513) 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/>.