

# Fides Insurance Group

## RISK ALERT

### No. 2021-12

**Re: Hurricane Warning**

**August 21, 2021**

Henri has been declared a hurricane. At 11:00 am today, the National Hurricane Center extended the hurricane warning for the southern coast of New England to include west of Westport, MA. At the present time, it is expected to make landfall on Long Island and track north over western Massachusetts before turning east.

In addition, a storm surge warning is in effect for Flushing NY to Chatham, MA and Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Block Island. A **Storm Surge Warning** means there is a danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the coastline. Persons located within these areas should take all necessary actions to protect life and property from rising water and the potential for other dangerous conditions. Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

**Officials in Massachusetts cautioned that people could lose power for a week or even longer.** Authorities urged people to secure their boats, fuel up their vehicles, and stock up on canned goods. To complicate matters, grounds have been saturated with heavy rainfall this summer, creating conditions that will make flooding more likely.

**At this time, we urge you to make the following preliminary preparations:**

- Continue to take efforts to **protect property**. Prepare for wind damage and flooding.
- Check to see if sump pumps are working, and advise custodians to check all drains, grates and basins to ensure they are free of leaves and debris.
- **Closely monitor NOAA weather radio** or local news outlets for changes to the forecast. For a depiction of areas at risk, please see the National Weather Service Storm Surge Watch/Warning Graphic, available at [hurricanes.gov](https://www.hurricanes.gov).
- **Immediately inspect trees and bushes.** Remove dead or rotting branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- **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. Fill bathtub with clean water in case water becomes contaminated. (Sanitize tub first with bleach, rinse, then fill with clean water.)
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage to people/property.
- Have window shutters/plywood covers accessible in the event windows need to be protected.

**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/>.