

**Ratio Risk Services / Diocese of Springfield**  
**RISK ALERT**  
**No. 2022-25**

**Re: Severe Thunderstorm Watch**

**July 21, 2022**

The National Weather issued a severe thunderstorm watch until 8pm tonight. In addition, for those traveling, there is a tornado warning for Franklin County, Middlesex County and Worcester County until 4:15pm.

**We urge you to immediately 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.

*For more information on tornado preparations, please see the attached fact sheet.*

**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/>.