

Ratio Risk Services / Diocese of Springfield
RISK ALERT
No. 2022-34

Re: Severe Thunderstorm Warning

August 26, 2022

Scattered strong to severe thunderstorms are expected to arrive between 1 PM – 3 PM this afternoon and last through 7 PM – 9 PM this evening due to a cold front approaching the region. The National Weather Service has issued a hazardous weather outlook for all of Massachusetts east of Berkshire County, northern Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Hazardous, damaging winds will be the primary threat, but (potential) hail, localized flooding, and the low possibility of isolated tornadoes are also expected hazards. Damage to roofs, windows, and vehicles — as well as tree damage — may occur.

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.

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/>.