

Office of Risk Management

RISK ALERT

No. 2021-09

RE: Hazardous Weather Outlook: Thunderstorms

July 21, 2021

The National Weather issued a hazardous weather outlook for our area, warning of strong to severe thunderstorms from 1-9 pm today. All of Massachusetts is expected to be affected, though the area at greatest risk is south of the Mass Pike, with more storms expected in eastern Mass and on the Cape and Islands. The main threats with any stronger storms are damaging wind gusts, isolated hail and heavy downpours which may lead to localized flooding. Wind gusts are predicted to get up to 60 mph.

The Office of Risk Management urges you to 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

Property damage caused by lightning, including damage caused to electrical appliances and wiring, is covered under the property and insurance program. If you experienced a lightning strike that causes damage, please go to: <https://rcabrisk.org/property-claim-report/>

RCAB Contact List: <http://rcabrisk.org/contact>