

Office of Risk Management

RISK ALERT

No. 2021-13

Re: Hurricane Watch

August 20, 2021

As Tropical Storm Henri approaches New England, hurricane warnings have been issued for southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the storm is expected to strengthen over the weekend and hit the New England coast as a hurricane by Sunday.

Tropical Storm Henri is forecast to track near Narragansett Bay and into southern New England Sunday into Monday. Although the exact track is uncertain, it brings the potential for damaging winds, flooding rainfall, and storm surge flooding. Rainfall could reach between 1 to 3 inches with flash flooding possible and dangerous swells potentially causing life-threatening surf and rip currents. Forecasters are urging residents across southern New England to prepare for power outages.

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

- Efforts to **protect property** should now be underway. Prepare for wind damage. Act now to complete preparations before the wind becomes hazardous.
- **Closely monitor NOAA weather radio** or other local news outlets for official storm information and changes to the forecast. See the “Keep Informed” section below for more information.
- **Immediately inspect trees and bushes. Remove dead or rotting branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.**
- **Be prepared for potential power outages** as a result of downed power lines caused by storm activity. Have an emergency supply kit on hand, including water, flashlight, extra batteries, a first aid kit and non-perishable food.
- 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.
- 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.

Keep Informed

- All locations should have a battery-powered radio on hand. Please monitor weather reports.
- Download our Hurricane Preparation Guide:
<https://rcabrisk.org/knowledgebase/hurricane-preparation/>

Reporting a Claim

If you experience property damage or injury as a result of the storm, report the claim immediately at 617-746-5743 or via the online form at: <https://rcabrisk.org/property-claim-report/>. For a list of service vendors, go to: <https://rcabrisk.org/vendors/>.