

**RCAB Office of Risk Management**  
**RISK ALERT**  
**No. 2022-06**

**RE:   Blizzard Warning**

**January 28, 2022**

A Blizzard Warning is now in effect between midnight tonight through 5:00 am Sunday, January 30 for portions of eastern, northeastern and southeastern Massachusetts. Expected total snow accumulations are now set at 18-24 inches with wind gusts as high as 70 mph.

Considerable blowing and drifting snow along with near white out conditions are expected. Snowfall rates of 2 to 4 inches per hour is possible.

**Temperatures will dip and may be in the single digits on Sunday. Prevent frozen pipes!** Due to the severity of this cold, keep thermostats set at 70°–72° F for the duration of this cold spell. This may temporarily increase your heating costs, but it’s a small price to pay to avoid more costly damage and inconvenience caused by frozen pipes.

**We urge you to make the following preliminary preparations:**

- **Prepare for wind damage.** Some trees in our area may be more susceptible to high winds. Immediately inspect trees and bushes. Remove dead or rotting branches that could fall and cause injury or damage. **Secure outdoor objects** that could blow away or cause damage to people/property.
- Maintenance personnel should check facilities, **ESPECIALLY UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS**, in the morning and evening each day. Check for frozen lines by making sure water is flowing in the faucets and toilets. If you believe a line is frozen, shut off the water supply until a plumber arrives.
- Be prepared for **potential power outages** from 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.
- If you **lose heat** and are unable to restore heat, shut off the water supply and drain the pipes. This will prevent water from freezing and bursting the pipes. If you are unable to drain the pipes, open the taps a little to allow water to trickle out. If you choose this option, please monitor the taps on a regular basis.
- If using a **space heater**, inspect it for safety – make sure it is functioning properly and that the cords are not frayed. Only use a space heater that automatically shuts off if it tips over. **DO NOT USE EXTENSION CORDS WITH PORTABLE HEATERS – PLUG THEM DIRECTLY INTO THE WALL OUTLET.**

**Earlier this month, the cold snap resulted in over \$1 million in property damage from frozen pipes alone. Losses like this can increase insurance premiums for all locations. Please take action - frozen pipes can be prevented!**

**Property Damage**

If you experience property damage, 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/>.