

The Office of Risk Management
RISK ALERT
SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS
No. 2022-21

Re: Hazardous Weather Outlook: Severe Thunderstorms

July 12, 2022

The National Weather issued a hazardous weather outlook for our area, warning of strong to severe thunderstorms from 3-10 pm today. All of southern New England is expected to be affected, though the greatest risks to the Boston area will be lightening and damaging wind gusts.

The main threats with any stronger storms are damaging wind gusts and heavy downpours, which may lead to localized flooding, along with a chance of isolated hail (though activity is expected to diminish as the storm moves southeast). Wind gusts are predicted to get up to 40 mph in some areas.

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

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://rcab.formstack.com/forms/springfield_property_claim