**Office of Risk Management
Risk Alert
No. 2022-18**

**Re: Hazardous Weather Outlook May 16, 2022**

A hazardous weather outlook has been issued for northern Connecticut, central Massachusetts, eastern Massachusetts, northeastern Massachusetts, southeastern Massachusetts, western Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

A few strong to severe thunderstorms are possible this evening roughly between 5 to 9 pm across western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut, with the greatest risk west of the Connecticut River Valley. The main threat will be locally strong to damaging wind gusts along with heavy rain/brief poor drainage street flooding. The activity is anticipated to weaken as it moves further east.

**We urge 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://rcab.formstack.com/forms/springfield_property_claim>