



Tropical Storm/Hurricane Preparation

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 – November 1) presents significant risk to municipal properties throughout Massachusetts. Early predictions – from a number of meteorological agencies – forecast a very active hurricane season. Climate change and evolving weather patterns are creating additional exposure to wind and water damage in the northeast. For the past several years, MIIA members have faced numerous weather-related catastrophes caused by high winds and increased rainfall with resulting flooding and water damage.

Given the reality of these shifting weather patterns, we strongly urge you to plan and prepare to mitigate the impact from these weather events. Below is a list of key tasks to consider:

- **Roofs** – Inspect your roofs for damage. Determine if additional fasteners or strapping is necessary to secure roofs.
- **Drains & Gutters** – Clear drains and gutters to allow water to drain away from your buildings.
- **Rooftop Systems** – Ensure that rooftop ventilation and air conditioning units are properly secured.
- **Air Conditioners** – Property secure window air conditioning units or bring them inside.
- **Trees** – Trim back tree limbs overhanging or in close proximity to buildings.
- **Window Protection** – Board windows with 5/8" marine plywood in high exposure areas, if tree limbs or shrubs cannot be trimmed in time.
- **Potential Airborne Items** – Move trash cans, tables, chairs, barbecue grills, etc., inside.
- **Recreation Equipment** – Secure outdoor recreation and school equipment such as soccer nets, playground equipment/toys, bleachers, portable basketball hoops, etc.
- **Storm Drains** – Clear storm water drains of debris in areas where flooding is likely.
- **Vehicles** – Determine how and where to store your non-emergency vehicles.
- **Fuels** – Obtain sufficient fuel for emergency response as stations will be closed during power outages.
- **Generators** – Test **ALL** generators to ensure they remain operational.
- **Basement Storage** – Move contents to higher ground and prepare sump pumps, if basements are prone to water penetration.
- **Communication Systems** – Review your backup plan in case of a communication system failure to ensure continuity of essential operations. If cell phones and computer networks are down, determine how to communicate emergency response and critical information to residents and/or employees.
- **Response Equipment** – Inspect and prepare equipment that will be needed during post storm cleanup such as personal protective equipment, chainsaws, sump pumps, backhoes, etc.
- **Remote Sensor Technology** – Ensure devices (temperature, water sensors) have a full battery charge and that alert numbers and emails are up-to-date and people on the lists understand their duties should they receive an alert.

Facility Staff

- o **Walkthroughs** – Conduct daily on-site inspections.
- o **Building Diagrams** – Provide staff with building schematics showing key shutoffs such as water lines, water mains, and gas lines.
- o **Emergency Response Plan** – Review emergency response plans with staff.
 - Authorized response personnel
 - Key utility identification and contact information
 - Key vendor identification
 - Delegation of authority – who has the authority to retain emergency response vendors
 - Contact information for immediate notification to insurance company

The MIIA Risk Management Team

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