



Tropical Storm Season – Storm Preparation

September 27, 2022

Dear Members,

As Hurricane Ian approaches Florida, we wanted to remind members that we're in the midst of the tropical storm season. Although most hurricanes don't usually reach Massachusetts, it's not uncommon to experience tropical storm conditions that can seriously impact buildings and infrastructure. Below is a listing of key storm preparation steps you can take, so that you're prepared should Ian or any other storm approach in the coming months.

Preparations

- **Roofs** - Inspect your roofs for damage. Determine if additional fasteners or strapping is necessary to secure them.
- **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** - Ensure window air conditioning units are properly secured or brought inside.
- **Trees** - If possible, trim back tree limbs and shrubs near buildings.
- **Window Protection** - If tree limbs or shrubs cannot be trimmed in time, consider boarding windows with 5/8" marine plywood in high-exposure areas.
- **Potential Airborne Items** - Move trash cans, tables, chairs, barbeque 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 some gas stations will be closed during power outages.
- **Generators** - Test ALL generators to ensure they remain operational.
- **Basement Storage** - If basements are prone to water penetration, move contents to higher ground and prepare sump pumps.
- **Communication Systems** - To maintain continuity of essential operations, it's critical to review your backup plan in case of a communication system failure. If cell phones and computer networks are down, determine how emergency response and critical information will be communicated 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** - If you have remote detection (temperature, water sensors), ensure devices have a full battery charge, alert numbers and emails are up-to-date and individuals on the lists understand their duties should they receive an alert.
- **Facility Staff**
 - Consider final walkthroughs prior to arrival of the storm.
 - Provide staff with a list/map of key shut-offs such as water lines/mains and gas.
 - Provide staff copies of your building response plans with key vendor contact information.

The MIIA Risk Management Team



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