



# Facilities Management

## Lightning/Surge Protection

As severe weather seasons approach, municipal administrators and facility managers must be proactive in addressing the increased risk of damage and operational disruptions caused by lightning strikes and power surges. These events can lead to electrical system failures, equipment damage, and structural issues. Taking proactive steps is crucial to minimize these risks and protect your facilities.

**Loss Lessons Learned:** Lightning and surge-related losses can result in significant financial burdens for municipalities. The costs associated with repairing or replacing damaged equipment, addressing structural damage, and dealing with operational disruptions can be substantial. These losses often affect critical infrastructure and services, leading to extended downtime and increased costs.

**Steps to Protect Your Facilities:** To help you prepare for potential lightning strikes and power surges, MIIA has developed a comprehensive [Technical Guidance Document](#) that outlines essential steps to protect your facilities. The guidance provides clear instructions for actions to take before, during, and after severe weather events, including:

- Ensure proper lightning protection system design, installation, maintenance, and regular inspections.
- Install and maintain surge protection devices at all service entrances, distribution panels, and critical locations; verify installation and function.
- Establish and verify grounding system integrity.
- Inspect building structures for any openings or cracks.
- Implement personnel safety measures (e.g., advise staff to stay indoors).
- Protect equipment by disconnecting sensitive devices when possible.
- Utilize building management systems to monitor power quality, detect surges, and receive alerts.

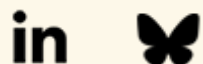
For complete details on the steps to protect your facilities, please refer to the linked [Technical Guidance Document](#). In addition, some of these practices may be eligible for MIIA Rewards credit, and the tools may be eligible for a MIIA Risk Management or Flex Grant. Please discuss with your Risk Manager for further details.

**Disclaimer:** The material contained herein is intended for general informational purposes only. It is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Any inquiries concerning Massachusetts law should be directed to a city solicitor, town counsel or other licensed attorney.



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