



TOWN OF HOLLAND  
**Police Department**  
27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521  
Bryan C. Haughey  
*Chief of Police*

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From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police  
Date: September 12, 2023  
Subj: Situational Awareness Statement - All Hazards Mitigation Planning - Severe Weather  
Expected Wednesday, September 13, 2023, through Sunday, September 17, 2023

Greetings,

Please accept this memorandum in my role as Police Chief and Emergency Management Director regarding situational awareness pertaining to the severe weather that is expected through Sunday, September 17, 2023. Unless indicated otherwise, this document and its attachments are unclassified and designated for official use only, U/FOUO. There are no restrictions concerning public dissemination of this document.

Today, the National Weather Service Boston/Norton MA NWS/NOAA issued a flood watch for much of Massachusetts. This is expected to remain in effect from Wednesday morning, September 13th, through Thursday morning, September 14th. The watch means that flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible and includes our area of eastern Hampden County.

Holland officials (led by the Police and Fire Chief) are in the process of coordinating plans and resources out of an abundance of caution and we have established a plan for ongoing communications with local points of contact such as DPW officials, the Board of Selectmen, Emergency Management, and other town administrators. Additionally, we are monitoring developments associated with the severe weather that is expected and have established protocols with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency MEMA and National Grid.

We are sharing the following information immediately:

1. Yesterday, heavy rain produced severe flooding in communities across Massachusetts causing flash flooding primarily in central parts of the state. Local States of Emergencies were declared in several communities due to significant damage. Highly saturated conditions continue across much of Southern New England, and some locations are still recovering from severe flooding that occurred on Monday.
2. NWS in conjunction with the MEMA Agency Meteorologist is predicting another round of showers and thunderstorms on Wednesday. High humidity coupled with a slow-moving cold front will run the risk of heavy bouts of rainfall mainly between 12 PM – 10 PM. This frontal system will bring slow-moving downpours and embedded thunderstorms from west to east.
3. One to two inches of rain are forecast, although localized amounts of up to four inches are possible. This will worsen existing flooding and/or trigger new areas of flooding. Rainfall rates of nearly 1 inch per hour may occur across portions of western and central Massachusetts Wednesday afternoon and evening.

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Police Department - 27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117

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4. Some areas may experience excessive water runoff that results in flooding of streets, and urban areas, as well as low-lying, poor drainage and flood-prone locations.
5. The Wednesday afternoon commute may be impacted by heavy rain and rapid-onset flash flooding is possible.
6. Flooding may be locally significant where persistent downpours develop especially areas that have seen severe flooding over the last 24 to 48 hours. This includes the potential for water in homes and businesses, road washouts, and structural damage. Small creeks and streams may experience sharp rises to over bankfull.
7. Lingering light showers over eastern Massachusetts will shift offshore Thursday morning as drier weather returns to the region for Thursday afternoon into Friday.
8. MEMA is actively monitoring (Hurricane Lee) through this week as it makes its way up the east coast. Daily coordination calls with the National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, and MEMA Command and General Staff are underway. Future information on pre-event planning actions, activation, and response posture will be updated in the coming days.

Recommended Precautionary and Preparedness Actions:

1. We encourage everyone to monitor forecasts and be alert for additional watches and warnings. NWS describes a WATCH as conditions that are favorable for the threat to develop and you should continue to monitor the weather conditions in case you need to seek shelter. A WARNING means the hazard is occurring or extremely imminent and you need to take immediate action to protect life and property. (Remember, at this point, only a flood WATCH has been issued but conditions may elevate to a WARNING in time).
2. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop.
3. Motorists should not attempt to drive around barricades or drive cars through flooded areas. Even 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet and a depth of 2 feet will float your car. Turn around, and don't drown when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.
4. Never try to walk, swim, or drive through such swift water. If you come upon flood waters, stop, turn around, and go another way. To escape rising water, take the shortest path to higher ground. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize the dangers of flooding.
5. Please stay away from any downed lines as they may be live, and call the police instead.

Links to Safety Tips:

- Power Outage Safety Tips: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/power-outage-safety-tips>
- Hurricane Safety Tips: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/hurricane-safety-tips>
- Flood Safety Tips: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/flood-safety-tips>

For additional information and updated forecasts:

- <https://www.weather.gov/box/> Boston/Norton
- <https://www.weather.gov/aly/> Albany

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Please contact National Grid directly to report or check on the status of any power outages. You may also use MEMA's real-time power outage map to stay informed about current power outages in your community/county, and across the state, including information from utility providers <http://mema.mapsonline.net/public.html>.

Remember, for non-emergencies you may call or Regional Dispatch Center at (413) 245-7222, or dial 911 from any working phone if it is an emergency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the Police Department concerning this matter. I can be reached via e-mail at [bhaughey@hollandma.org](mailto:bhaughey@hollandma.org) or via voicemail at (413) 245-0117 ext: 330.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey  
Chief of Police

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