

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

DWS Circular Letter# 2021-61

TO: Community Public Water Systems

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief 

DATE: August 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Preparedness Reminder – Tropical Storm Henri

The National Weather Service forecast track of Tropical Storm Henri brings it to the northeastern U.S. early Sunday morning through Tuesday morning with heavy tropical rains and possible tropical storm force winds. It is also possible that the tropical storm will strengthen to a hurricane by Sunday morning and that the storm track may shift. Hurricane watch and tropical storm warnings have been posted for parts of the Connecticut shoreline and a flash flood watch has also been put in place.

Timing: Heavy rains & possible tropical storm force winds expected early Sunday through Tuesday morning

Hazards & Impacts: - 2 to 6 inches of rain expected, with locally heavier amounts.
- River and small stream flooding possible with these predicted rainfall totals.
- Potential tropical storm force winds with the possibility of power outages.

For the latest forecast updates visit <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

The Drinking Water Section encourages all community water systems to do the following in preparation for the storm's impacts:

- Test the backup power generators under load and top off associated fuel tanks
- Identify emergency response staff and assign roles and responsibilities
- Draft and prepare messages to be communicated to the media, the public and public officials
- Draft and prepare the template of a boil water advisory, in English & other languages deemed necessary to your service area, so it is ready and available if needed, [Boil-Water-Notices-and-Advisories](#)
- Review the emergency response plans, update phone numbers and emergency contact information
- Identify all of your critical water facilities, critical customers and potential shelters in your service area

You are reminded to report any and all emergency incidents (loss of pressure, infrastructure failures, flooding, storm damage, facility access problems, etc.) through the [WEBEOC](#) and to the Department of Public Health as soon as possible. If your community water system experiences a power outage leading to a low water pressure, then you must alert your customers to boil the water and notify the DPH by contacting our emergency number at 860-692-2333.

c. Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Department of Public Health



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