

# **Catholic Mutual...CARES**

## **After the Storm Facility Management**

In many parts of the country, tornados and severe thunderstorms can cause extensive damage to our properties. As soon as it is deemed safe to examine the property, you'll want to do so.

- Watch for downed power lines. If found, discontinue your examination until you are advised it is safe to walk your grounds.
- If you have above-ground electrical service, make a visual check of the electrical connection outside of building. Do not attempt to make repairs or touch any wiring. Contact a qualified electrician to examine the issue if you suspect damages or have concerns.
- A quick survey should be made to identify the types of items that need to be secured and whether any trees or branches pose a direct threat to your property. Most of the damage from storms comes from fallen trees or branches.
- Examine the exterior of the building for obvious signs of damage that could turn into a bigger problem.
- Make temporary repairs to protect from further damage.
- Check roof for damage such as missing shingles, torn metal, or extensive pooling of rain water on flat roofs.
- Look for leaks and broken vent pipes.
- The evidence for wind damage can range from missing shingles, which can be seen from the ground, to lifted shingles with broken glue seals. Asphalt shingles adhere to one another utilizing a strip of adhesive called a glue strip or sealant strip. When high winds break this seal, debris and dirt are blown into this glue area.
- Lightning damage is not always visible or obvious and can range from structural to electrical damage.
- Examine the interior of every room and look for water staining or leaks. If you see water on the floor along the wall but no moisture on the wall itself, this would be indicative of interior water migration.
- Almost every church and school depends on volunteers for necessary maintenance and minor repair work. However, it is not recommended to have volunteers examine your property for storm damage. This should be handled by professionals who are trained to identify specific damages and are aware of potential hazardous situations.
- Report any damage by submitting a claim in accordance with your (Arch)Diocesan policy.