

Floods and power outages: Sandy strikes Northeast

HURRICANE SANDY SLAMS INTO EAST COAST, LEAVING IN ITS WAKE INCREDIBLE DEVASTATION

BY BRYAN DOOLEY
SENIOR WRITER

On Monday, Oct. 29, Hurricane Sandy unleashed colossal devastation on the northeast United States. The storms produced mass power outages, homelessness, and even death.

"Everyone on my mom and dad's side has been without power due to Sandy," said Danielle Duffy, assistant athletic trainer from New Jersey. "They have no real clue when it will be restored. My cousin lost her home and her car due to flood damage."

According to The New York Times, the mammoth and merciless hurricane made landfall near Atlantic City around 8 p.m. with maximum sustained winds of about 80 miles per hour, as calculated by the National Hurricane Center. More than two million residents of New Jersey and Connecticut were without power as of 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday Oct. 30. Many famous landmarks were damaged; crashing waves claimed an old, 50-foot piece of Atlantic City's world-famous Boardwalk.

A New York power supplier, Consolidated Edison, reported as of 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday Oct. 30 that 634,000 customers in New York City and Westchester County had no power. Consolidated Edison, fearing damage to its electrical equipment, shut down power preemptively in sections of Lower Manhattan on Monday evening. An unplanned failure knocked out power to an additional 250,000 customers, and later, an explosion at a substation knocked out power to another 250,000 customers.

Similar outages occurred in Philadelphia.

"Some of my family who live in the suburbs lost power and are not sure of the exact date they will have it back," said senior Ali

Krantzler, a Philadelphia native. "Family and friends have told me there was high wind and some flooding on smaller streets. If we lived closer to the shore, it (the hurricane) would have had a greater impact."

The impact was also felt at the gas pumps. The power outages led to extensive lines at the pumps. The few stations that had power ran out of gas, adding to the frustration of many residents.

As bad as the storm was, it could have been much worse.

"It seems very bad now," said Dave Dobson, associate professor of geology. "The hurricane hit a very populated area, but had much less loss of life and physical damage, compared to Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina. These storms also produced much more financial damage, compared to Sandy."

Dobson believes global warming worsened Sandy's effects.

"You can't blame global warming for one storm, because there have been bad storms in the past," Dobson said. "But we do know that the oceans are warming and hurricanes are generated in hot ocean water. So there is no question that global warming made Sandy worse."

The recovery from Sandy's devastation has already begun. President Obama has supported victims of Sandy's impact with aid from the federal government and the Red Cross, as well as promoted state and local involvement. Despite the cancellation of the official New York City Marathon, 1,300 runners ran their own marathon and donated supplies to Staten Island as they ran, according to TIME.com.

"I hope that the silver linings of this horrible time will shine through and make people less hesitant to tell people how they truly feel about them," said Duffy, looking toward the future with an optimistic lens.

He continued, "(And) to venture outside of their everyday bubble with everyday struggles, and care about what is happening in other parts of the country with people just like us."



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20 million+ New York tweets about Hurricane Sandy were posted during #Sandy. That's 6.3 million more than sent during the last Super Bowl



Most popular Twitter hashtags during the storm were #sandy and #hurricane



NYC mobile usage hit a peak around the time of #ConEd explosion, doubling usage in 2 days



#RedCross tweets spiked to 30 times their usual mention between Oct 27-Oct 30

TWEETS BY CATHERINE SCHURZ, GRAPHIC BY JOY DAMON

Individuals
interested in
contributing to
the hurricane
relief effort
may contact
the following
agencies:

- AMERICAN RED CROSS
www.redcross.org/hurricane-sandy
- BROOKLYN RECOVERY FUND
www.brooklynrecoveryfund.org
- MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY
www.nyc.gov/html/fund/html/home/home.shtml
- SALVATION ARMY
www.salvationarmyusa.org
- UNITED WAY SANDY RECOVERY FUND
www.uwsandyrecovery.org

Ukraine re-elects president in disputed election

BY CLARENCE TURPIN
STAFF WRITER

The re-election of Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich, a strong leader in the Party of Regions, has been called into question across the globe. Many believe Yanukovich's victory can be attributed to the jailing of his lead opposition, Yulia Tymoshenko, and that election fraud was a key factor in his re-election.

Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the Batkivshchina party — also known as the Fatherland party — a group that opposes the ruling party. At the time of her arrest, Tymoshenko was protesting to display her disagreement with the Party of Regions.

"If I were with you now and had an opportunity to act freely. I would without doubt call on you to stage an indefinite civil disobedience action," Tymoshenko's lawyer, Serhiy Vlasenko, read from the jailed party leader's statement to the press.

The Fatherland party candidate then declared a hunger strike "to protest against fake elections and an illegitimate parliament."

Tymoshenko has reason to feel cheated; before her arrest, three leading polling agencies showed she was holding her own in the race for presidency. Surveys revealed incumbent Yanukovich's to be ahead with 28.1 percent of the vote, but in close second was Tymoshenko's Fatherland party, projected to

win a competitive 25 percent of the proportional vote.

After her arrest, the Fatherland party received a mere 15 percent of the vote, distinguishing Yanukovich and his Party of Regions as the clear winners.

Outside speculation suggests that these results reflect the opinions of the Ukraine people.

"We believe that this is an undisputable victory of the Party of Regions," Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told a CBS

The politics in Ukraine seem to boil down to one thing: you are either with the ruling party, or you are against it.

correspondent shortly after polls closed. "Above all, it shows the people's trust to the course that is being pursued."

The people of Ukraine think of their government and president as an illegitimate parliament. These negative attitudes may result from a number of events that led the government to be seen as untrustworthy; recently, the government's passing of the language bill changing the official language of Ukraine

to Russian.

"Everyone is worried about the future," said Vitali Klitschko, world heavyweight boxing champion and leader of a small Ukrainian political party.

Andrei Shkil, a member of Tymoshenko's political party, agrees with Klitschko.

"The vote is cheating, and the law as a whole is unconstitutional," said Shkil.

The politics in Ukraine seem to boil down to one thing: you are either with the ruling party, or you are against it.

America, having just concluded its own presidential election, is familiar with similar criticisms. Is our election process perceived as fair? Or is it manipulatable, like the Ukraine election allegedly was?

"I believe our election processes are legitimate," said junior Joseph McManus. "While they are not perfect, I think we have the best system out there."

Though there are some who see are election process as sound, there are others who differ in opinion.

"Candidates have to tailor their campaigns to what the people want to hear," said junior Lars Henke. "It is confusing how someone can win the popular vote but still lose the election because of the Electoral College."

The question that remains is not whether government control is needed, but to what extent government should control the freedoms of a nation?