



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM

A man photographs the flooding of the East River in New York City Sunday, Aug. 28 after Hurricane Irene devastated the area. Some areas of New York received up to 13.3 inches, with wind gusts up to 79 mph.

Hurricane Irene inconsistent with predictions

Kassandra Cloos
News Editor

The North Carolina coast experienced Hurricane Irene long before it was downgraded to a tropical storm, but most of the predictions regarding devastation to New York City were not fully realized.

In the days before Hurricane Irene barreled up the East Coast, officials from federal weather organizations like the National Hurricane Center predicted consequences and potential scenarios of epic proportions.

Millions of power outages from North Carolina to New England accompanied downed trees, severe winds, heavy rain and, in Delaware, tornadoes. New Student Convocation at Elon University was held Friday evening rather than Saturday morning to accommodate parents driving

home after move-in day to help keep them safe in the face of an arriving hurricane.

Freshmen Hunter Priebe and Logan Williams, both from New Canaan, Conn., said their families lost power when Irene, then a tropical storm, passed through their area.

Both cable and phone access were lost in some areas as well, Priebe said, but physical damage was limited.

"There was some flooding, but nothing too serious," Priebe said. "There were definitely some good waves."

Williams said he has been receiving automated voice messages from his town and power is not expected to return any time soon.

"They said they want to restore power now," he said. "But there are too many downed wires."

Almost 300,000 National Grid

customers are still out of power in nearby Rhode Island alone, according to the Providence Journal, and repairs may not be finished for a full week.

Freshman Caroline Yaksich, from Maryland, said her family got quite a bit of rain at home and lost electricity temporarily, but many of her friends attending colleges on the coast were evacuated shortly after arriving on campus.

Yaksich has family in the Outer Banks of North Carolina that did not evacuate in preparation for the storm. Their area is accustomed to hurricanes, she said, and they did not lose power. Her sister in New York City did not evacuate either, she said.

"She was in a safe zone," she said. "She said by the time it got up there, it was weak."

TWEETING UP A STORM

@monarchslager
RT @dailyintel: New York is not the center of the universe: Hurricane Irene did serious damage elsewhere nym.ag/nhWikk
29 Aug

@mbkansky
Watching the #irene cleanup. Grateful my town was relatively unaffected. Wishing the best to everyone impacted.
28 Aug

@elonpendulum
#Hurricane #Irene has caused severe damage and millions of power outages. Tweet @elonpendulum with your storm stories and photos. #Staysafe
28 Aug

@JasonMPuckett
Off campus housing at ECU. Wrecked in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. #Irene @phoenix14news yfrog.com/hsnhidfpj
28 Aug

@nicolemchadwick
@phoenix14news damage from Hurricane Irene at ECUtwitpic.com/6ckkah
28 Aug

@KatiesBliss
It's a beautiful sunny day! Irene sure came quick. It was like it never happened. Hope everyone up north is doing okay!
28 Aug

@RandyGyllenhaal
Let's be clear: new england, and especially #vt, got nailed by flooding from irene. This storm wasn't a dud. #btv #vtirene
28 Aug

@elonalumni
Sending best wishes for a safe couple of days to our thousands of alums in #Irene's path. We love you!
27 Aug

@Hurricane_Irene
Prepare, stock up, and evacuate if you are told to. This is no joke. Have a plan. #Hurricane #Irene
25 Aug

@Hurricane_Irene
No, I did not cause the #earthquake. Glad to get a lot of this attention off my back.
23 Aug



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Neighbors in Brooklyn Heights gather to survey the damage caused by a large tree falling across the street on Sunday, Aug. 28. A homeowner in Milford, Conn., looks out at the water outside his home after Hurricane Irene destroyed the interior of his house Sunday. This Philadelphia neighborhood was not the only neighborhood affected by severe flooding. Some parts of Vermont are seeing some of the worst floods in state history. North Carolina Department of Transportation officials survey the damage to North Carolina 12 on Monday, Aug. 29. Many coastal North Carolina communities were hit hard by the storm surge.

