

SELECT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

(TO SEE REPORT FOR FULL SET OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, VISIT WWW.LESREADY.ORG)

FINDING 1.

The majority of LES residents did not evacuate before Hurricane Sandy hit and many decided to "shelter in place."

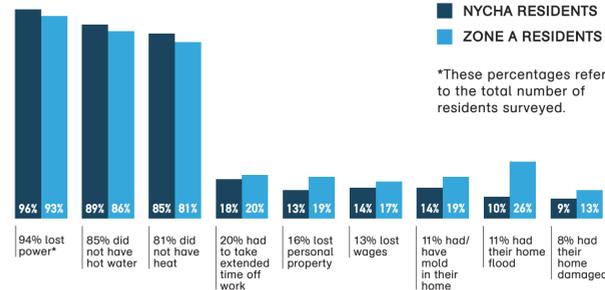
- The lack of damage from Hurricane Irene, the previous year, lulled residents into a false sense of security.
- Of those that did evacuate, most did not utilize City shelters.
 - Only 15% went to a public shelter/evacuation center in NYC;
 - 71% went to friend or family's house in NYC.

"We heard it [Hurricane Sandy] was coming and we were asked to evacuate but didn't because the news made Sandy look just like Irene in terms of severity levels." - Focus group participant

FINDING 2.

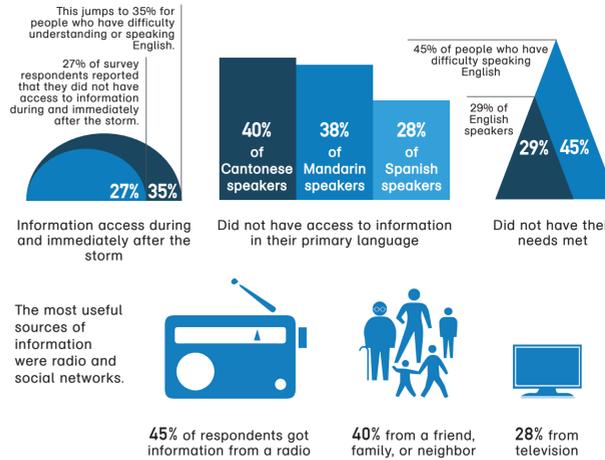
Residents of the Lower East Side were severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

98% of survey respondents report that they were affected by Hurricane Sandy. (99% of NYCHA residents, 100% of Zone A residents).



FINDING 3.

Poor communication from the City and a lack of information hampered the recovery effort.



"During Hurricane Sandy, that was the first time I ever experienced something like that, from having no power, heat, or hot water to the food going bad. My family and I decided to leave the day after Sandy because we couldn't stand to stay another night..." - Survey comment

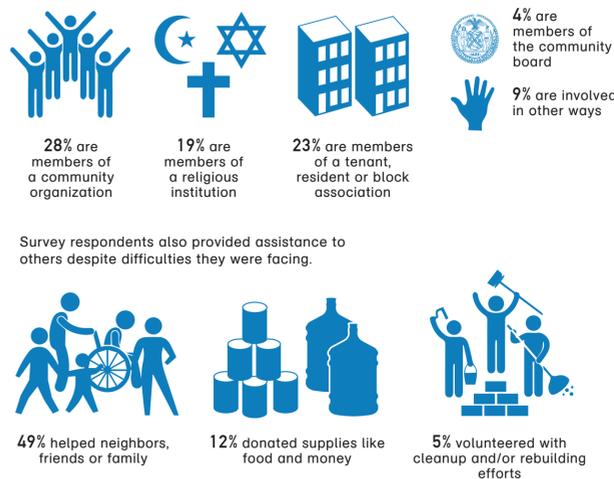
FINDING 4.

Despite the hardships faced by residents, relief was slow and inadequate from the city and federal government. This created a gap that community groups partially filled.

- 62% of survey respondents did NOT receive any relief from the government or other "official" sources.
- And for those that did receive "official" assistance, 53% had to wait four days or more.
- 57% of our survey respondents received assistance from at least one of these community sources.
 - 28% from a family member, friend or neighbor
 - 27% from community organizations
 - 10% from a tenant/resident/block association
 - 9% from religious organizations

FINDING 5.

The inadequate government relief highlighted the importance of strong community bonds and robust community-based organizational infrastructure in the Lower East Side.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT:

- Should make sure people are prepared to evacuate and that buildings have information with regard to where people can evacuate.
- Should provide transportation so people can evacuate.
- Should assure the public that shelters are safe and properly staffed and put protocols in place that provide people with safety and security.
- Must ensure that information at shelters and about the availability of shelters is available in at least Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish and Russian languages.
- Should make all notices, flyers and announcements available in, at minimum, Spanish, Chinese and Russian, the most common languages of Lower East Side residents in addition to English as well as any other languages that are prevalent in a given community. These should be posted prominently in buildings and public spaces in the community.
- Should utilize charging stations that are solar powered and can work when electricity is out. Cooper Union students and faculty are currently commissioned by the Two Bridges Neighborhood Council to create a prototype for solar powered charging station under an agreement called the Cooper Lumen Design Challenge.
- Must improve communication with residents before, during, and after a natural disaster and pay special attention to ensuring that seniors, people with disabilities and people with limited English proficiency get the information that they need.
- Need to improve communications with local organizations and work to ensure relief efforts are coordinated and disaster preparedness plans are complementing one another.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LES READY:

- Provide ongoing education and awareness campaigns; including showing people the flood maps and other relevant information.
- Provide training for residents on how to shelter in place: what supplies are needed and/or what actions should be taken if residents are without power, water, heat, etc.
- Make sure people are prepared to evacuate, that buildings have information with regard to where people can evacuate and that families have a plan.
- Provide training for volunteers that are doing outreach: have LES Ready certification course for before disaster and then also provide abbreviated (30 minutes or less) training for volunteers during emergency.
- Have clear communication plan between the City and LES Ready to access and get supplies for distribution (See LES Ready Disaster plan for detailed communications plan).

LES READY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

9BC Tompkins Square Block Association
 All the Way East 4th Street Block Association
 American Red Cross
 Asian Americans for Equality
 Association of Latino Business Owners and Residents (ALBOR)
 Catholic Charities
 Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
 Chinese-American Planning Council
 Chinese Progressive Association
 Commission on the Public Health System
 Community Board 3
 Cooper Square Committee
 Disaster Distress Helpline
 East Side Tabernacle
 Eighth Street Block Association
 FEGS Health and Human Services
 Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
 Grand Street Settlement
 Green Map System
 Hamilton-Madison House
 Henry Street Settlement
 Loisada United Neighborhood Gardens (LUNGS)
 Lower East Side Coalition Housing Development
 Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association (LESPMHA)
 Lower East Side Power Partnership
 Nazareth Housing
 New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)
 Occupy Sandy
 Operation Hope
 Primitive Christian Church
 Ryan-NENA Community Health Center
 Sara D. Roosevelt Park Community Coalition
 Sixth Street Community Center
 The Salvation Army
 Two Bridges Neighborhood Council (TBNC)
 University Settlement
 Urban Justice Center - Community Development Project
 Village East Towers
 WiFi-NY/Peoples Emergency Network
 World Cares Center

LES READY!

GETTING LES READY:

Learning from Hurricane Sandy to Create a Community-Based Disaster Plan for the Future



Photos courtesy of LES Ready, University Settlement Project Hope and Sixth Street Community Center.

LES Ready, also known as the Lower East Side Long Term Recovery Group, is a coalition of community groups and institutions that will cooperatively coordinate our response, resources, preparedness planning and training in response to Hurricane Sandy and in the event of future disasters. Our work will focus on Manhattan's Community Board 3 area and the immediately adjacent neighborhoods that our groups may serve. The goal of this newsletter is to keep you informed about our efforts and connected to our work.

To learn more visit:
WWW.LESREADY.ORG
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TIPS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

EVERYDAY STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PREPARE YOURSELF TO BETTER FACE AN EMERGENCY

MAKE A PLAN

- TALK TO EACH OTHER!** Make and practice evacuation plans and choose a meeting place to regroup if you are separated. Discuss the possible emergencies and how you would cope with them. Write your plan down, along with all important contact information and meeting place addresses. Make copies for each member of your family. Think about places where you could stay if asked to evacuate for some time.
- Make sure children know their last name, phone number, address.
- Make copies of your prescriptions, health insurance cards, copies of your important documents in a clear plastic. (ex: insurance cards, lease, photo ID, proof of address)
- If Emergency officials call for an evacuation, DO IT! Do not wait to become trapped on high floors with no power to the elevators.
- Each individual in your household should have his or her own Go Bag. Go Bags should include:
 - Flashlights, crank or battery operated (and/or battery operated lantern type lights); Radios, crank or battery operated; Extra batteries; First aid kits; Cash
 - Extra car and house keys
 - Contact lists
 - Medication information
 - Copies of important documents: ID, passport, lease, insurance policies/cards, birth certificates, driver's license, foreign citizenship papers, foreign education documents.

IF YOU DECIDE TO SHELTER IN PLACE

- Assume you'll be without electricity and running water for at least 3 days. Fill your bathtub and keep clean water (at least 3 gallons per person per day, for 3 days or more.)
- Keep cash on hand; EBT & ATM Cards may not be working.
- Keep enough food and supplies in your home to survive on your own, for at least three days (ex: water, non-perishable and canned foods, batteries, flashlights, candles, hand cranked radios, first aid kit, hygiene items such as toilet paper).
- If you have pets, make sure you plan for their needs.

SENIORS

- If you receive home-based care (e.g., home care attendant, home health aide, visiting nurse service), include caregivers in developing your plan and familiarize yourself with your homecare agency's emergency plan.
- If you rely on home-delivered meals, always stock nonperishable food at home in case meal deliveries are suspended during an emergency.
- If you receive dialysis or other medical treatments, find out your provider's emergency plan, including where your back-up site is located.

HAVE A PLAN WITH YOUR DOCTOR TO GET EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

- Make a list of ALL your medications. Make sure you include how much and how often you take each medication.
- Always have enough medication to last for at least seven days. If you have less than seven days, contact your pharmacy to get a refill.
- Take your medications with you, if you evacuate. Whenever possible, bring your medications in the original, labeled bottle with your name printed on it. This will help you get refills if you need them.
- Make copies of your prescriptions, health insurance cards and prescription cards. Keep these in your wallet and Go Bag. Keep pictures of prescriptions or prescription bottle labels stored in your phone. Keep copies of your important documents in a clear plastic.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.LESREADY.ORG
WWW.OEM.COM

Hurricane Sandy, which hit New York City on October 29th, devastated many neighborhoods throughout the City. The Lower East Side—which was located in New York City's Emergency Evacuation Zone A when Sandy hit (now referred to as Zone 1) was one of those communities that was particularly hard hit. Tunnels, train stations, and homes were inaccessible and most grocery stores, pharmacies, and other businesses were closed for several days.

The Lower East Side is home to one of the highest concentrations of public housing in the country. These residents were hit especially hard by Sandy, some going without heat, hot water, or use of elevators for weeks. Overall, government response in the immediate aftermath of the storm was slow and inadequate given the immense needs of the Lower East Side. To fill the gap where the government fell short, community organizations had to take matters into their own hands.

The Lower East Side has a long history of coming together as a community and building social bonds and networks. Today the LES has numerous community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve the needs of residents. This robust community infrastructure played a critical role in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Hours after the storm ended, and well before government agencies or large non-profits such as the Red Cross arrived, these community groups had already started assessing the needs of residents and distributing lifesaving supplies.

Although CBOs were the most effective in meeting the needs of Lower East Side residents quickly and efficiently in the wake of Sandy, they encountered several difficulties in providing relief. CBOs did not have adequate resources or proper training to be relief organizations; they were also not included in the city's emergency management plan and had difficulty communicating with emergency managers and the city relief operations.

Learning from these experiences, community organizations in the Lower East Side formed a Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), now called "LES Ready," that would cooperatively coordinate our response, resources, preparedness planning, and training in response to Hurricane Sandy and in the event of future disasters. Today, LES Ready is a coalition of 40 community groups and institutions.

As part of LES Ready's mission to coordinate preparedness planning, the group is developing a community-based disaster response plan. To support this plan, Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES), Hester Street Collaborative (HSC), the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center (CDP), and LES Ready member organizations conducted community-based research focusing on what worked well in the recovery effort following Sandy, what could be improved, and documenting the resources CBOs in the Lower East Side had in place during Sandy as well as what they currently have in place to respond to future disasters.

See the back page for more information about what we learned, and the inside pages for a map of community organizations you can turn to in the event of another emergency or disaster.

RESOURCES IN A DISASTER EMERGENCY

This map shows community organizations that residents can go to for resources during a disaster emergency. The numbers correspond to the list of organizations below, and the icons represent the services and resources available at each location.

1. Alfred E. Smith Resident Association
15 St. James Place
 2. Asian Americans for Equality
141 Norfolk Street, 212-299-0499
 3. CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
55 Hester Street, 212-473-6485
 4. Campos Plaza Resident Association
Rear of 205 Avenue C, 646-247-9717
 5. Catholic Charities
213 Stanton Street, 888-744-7900
 6. Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
268 Canal Street, 917-662-3960
 7. Chinese Progressive Association
230 Grand Street, Suite 504, 212-274-1891
 8. Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center, Inc.
107 Suffolk Street, 212-260-4080
 9. Commission on the Public's Health System (CPHS)
45 Clinton Street, 212-246-0803
 10. Cooper Square Committee
61 East 4th Street, 212-228-8210
 11. East Side Tabernacle
254 E. 2nd Street, 646-421-3192
 12. Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES)
169 Ave B, 212-358-1231
 13. Graffiti Church
205 E. 7th Street, 212-473-0044
 14. Grand Street Settlement
80 Pitt Street, 212-674-1740
 15. Henry Street Settlement
265 Henry Street, 212-766-9200
 16. Hester Street Collaborative
113 Hester Street, 917-265-8591
 17. Lands End One Tenant Association
257 Clinton Street
 18. LES Coalition Housing Development
717 E. 9th Street, 646-779-3929
 19. Lower East Side Ecology Center
East River Esplanade at Grand Street, 212-477-4022
 20. Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association Inc.
227 East 3rd Street, 212-473-5940
 21. Lower East Side Power Partnership (LESPP)
St. Augustine's Church, 290 Henry Street, 212-204-0668
 22. Lower East Side Rehab (Group 5) / LES 5
87 Avenue C Apt 1A
 23. Manhattan Community Board 3
59 E. 4th Street, 212-533-6015
 24. Nazareth Housing
206 E. 4th Street, 410-340-6239
 25. Primitive Christian Church
207-209 East Broadway, 212-673-7868
 26. Ryan-NENA Community Health Center
279 East 3rd street, 212-477-8868
 27. Sixth Street Community Center
638 East 6th Street, 212-677-1863
 28. Two Bridges Neighborhood Council
80 Rutgers Slip, 212-566-2729
 29. University Settlement
184 Eldridge street, 212-330-6871
 30. Vldeck Tenant's Association
356 Madison Street
- Evacuation Centers:**
 Seward Park High School
 350 Grand Street
 Baruch College*
 155 E. 24th St
 *Not shown on map



* This map was created using data gathered through a survey of Lower East Side organizations. Researchers collected 30 surveys from community-based organizations, tenant associations, and religious institutions about their short- and long-term recovery efforts around Hurricane Sandy, as well as their interest and capacity for providing relief in the event of a future disaster.