

## **Hurricane Sandy Cleanup in NYC**

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Hurricane Sandy brought unprecedented devastation to New York City including loss of life, homes and property. Along with the extensive flooding, significant environmental impacts were immediately realized in the wake of Sandy that included tens of thousands of petroleum spills.

The day after Hurricane Sandy hit New York EnviroTrac responded to building owners in lower Manhattan to start the cleanup and recovery. The flood waters caused extensive property damage to the buildings, flooding them with sewage water and causing fuel oil releases from storage tanks and vehicles.

Working 24/7, EnviroTrac's team pumped out and disposed millions of gallons of contaminated water from flooded parking garages and basements, recovered thousands of gallons of fuel oil, demolished and removed contaminated materials, washed and disinfected multiple levels of buildings. Given the tight confines of many areas, such as storage rooms, electrical rooms, elevator shafts, boiler rooms, much of the cleanup had to be performed by hand. Within just a few weeks, EnviroTrac completed remedial cleanup at three (3) high rise residential properties, thus allowing the owners to start the rebuilding process that allowed the thousands of displaced residents to return home.

The presentation will cover the challenges responding to such a regional disaster from procuring equipment, pumps, water treatment, ventilation systems, portable lighting and generators to getting enough gasoline to keep the equipment operating. A discussion of lessons learned and design/construction changes to consider to lessen the impact of similar disasters will be included.