



Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer

Coming Back from Hurricane Sandy

Dear Friend,

New York City has now seen the worst of Hurricane Sandy, but as we survey the damage this morning from The Bowery to Breezy Point, it is clear that we have a lot of work to do. And by working together as New Yorkers, we will get it done – starting today. I want to first thank the heroes of the NYPD, FDNY, Con-Ed, National Guard, hospital workers and all the other emergency responders who are working so hard to keep us safe. I know you share my appreciation for those who are working on the front lines to save lives and restore essential services.

My advice for everyone else is stay safe, stay indoors and let rescue workers do their job today. For the best, most up-to-date information, you should stay tuned to TV and radio. But we know for sure that the job ahead is enormous:

- Much of Lower Manhattan has experienced severe flooding, and more than half a million Con-Ed customers in the City woke up without power this morning.
- Our subway system experienced the worst disaster in its 108-year history and remains shut down. While there is no firm timeline for when it will be up and running again, we're hearing that the subways will be coming back in phases and that full subway service will likely not resume for another 3-5 days. Bus service will be starting again today at 5pm on a limited basis, and will fill in some service gaps.
- A horrific fire in Breezy Point, Queens, has claimed more than 80 homes. Our prayers are with those families and the more than 190 firefighters who helped to battle the blaze.
- And we are continuing to monitor closely a crane collapse on 57th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues, which poses a major threat. Emergency responders have evacuated people from the immediate vicinity.

I'd like to echo Mayor Bloomberg's two crucial requests: Please call 911 only in life-threatening emergencies. For all other problems, please call 311. We cannot afford to overload our emergency response system at this time.

Perhaps the most helpful thing the rest of us can do is check in on our elderly or disabled friends and neighbors, to make sure they have everything they need.

We have much work ahead, and many unknowns to confront. But this much I know: New York will rise to this challenge with courage and compassion, just like it always does. I want to thank you in advance for all your help as we now move forward together.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer,
Manhattan Borough President