



Water Talk

South Huntington Water District

Irene Wreaks Havoc on Long Island

Virtually every resident of the South Huntington Water District lost electrical power at some point during Hurricane Irene, and many were without service for up to a week. Almost as many also lost phone service. But how many people in the South Huntington Water District lost their drinking water?

The answer may surprise you: NONE!

FORESIGHT

Normally, South Huntington Water is dependent upon LIPA to power well pumps and on the phone company to relay data among our numerous remote facilities. But given our vital mission of health and safety, The SHWD is prepared to “go it alone” in times of emergency...just as we did following Irene.

PREPARATION

The District maintains emergency electrical generators at strategically located well and reservoir sites. State-of-the-art and diesel-powered, they are on alert 24-hours a day. When their linked sensors detect a loss of LIPA power, the generators turn on and, within moments, power up the District site. Then water supply and treatment operations can continue uninterrupted.

TRAINING

While our machinery and technology are second to none, the most important factor in any emergency situation is personnel. The staff at the District was fully engaged making storm preparations well in advance of Irene’s arrival, performing final generator tests and fueling operations, slightly raising system chlorine residuals, prepositioning supplies and storm recovery equipment for easy access, filling our reservoirs to maximum capacity and briefing emergency response personnel on tasks and procedures. Our first responders were on the road at 5:00 AM on Sunday, August 28, manning the District control center and assessing site emergency operations...long before Irene reached full strength. Emergency crews remained on station well into the middle of the week as LIPA power was gradually restored to normal.

Our customers count on us to provide a pure and plentiful water supply, including in times of emergency. Through proper planning, constant preparedness and trained, dedicated personnel – we make that happen.

The renewal of existing infrastructure to keep pace with new technology and increasing demands is a priority at the South Huntington Water District. (L to R) Superintendent Kevin Carroll, Office Manager Dianne Rapczyk, and Commissioners Ciro DePalo, Paul Tonna and Dominick Feeney review plans for the modernization of Well Site #7 in Melville, slated to begin this Winter.



Nothing was safe from Hurricane Irene’s “impact” on August 28, 2011. This South Huntington Water District fire hydrant took a direct hit from a falling tree in Huntington Station. Once our friends from the Huntington Highway Department removed the tree, the hydrant was immediately placed back into service, needing just a paint touchup!



Voyage To The Bottom Of... TANK #12!

The South Huntington Water District can store approximately 10 million gallons of water in its 7 reservoirs. This reserved water can then be used if customer demand exceeds production capacity or in emergencies, such as a major fire or widespread power failures, as recently experienced in Hurricane Irene.

These huge water containers need to be periodically inspected, maintained and when necessary, repaired. While it is not difficult to inspect the tank exteriors, the interiors are a more difficult matter. Limited information can be obtained by visual observation through the entry hatch. A more thorough investigation can be made by draining the reservoir and having inspectors enter the empty tank. That, however, is time-consuming, wastes millions of gallons of water and potentially deprives the District of the reservoir's use for over a week.

But there is a new solution... tank inspection by ROV, or Remotely Operated Vehicle. In essence a miniature submarine, the ROV carries two high-resolution television cameras, its own powerful illumination source and a set of mechanical "jaws" that can retrieve objects or take samples from within the tank interior – all while the reservoir remains full and in service. The District employed an ROV recently in its survey of Tank #12-2 on Pidgeon Hill Road. This reservoir – the District's largest at 2 million gallons of capacity – is due for maintenance after a long, trouble-free period of almost 40 years. While the resulting data is still being studied, the ROV employment has already saved the District money by eliminating a costly tank draining. Further, its comprehensive information will allow us to economically plan and budget for future maintenance and several more decades of service to the people of South Huntington.



(Above) South Huntington Water District Chief Plant Operator Michael Feeney holds the ROV immediately after its remote investigation of District Reservoir #12.

Notice of Upcoming Election



The annual election for the office of Water District Commissioner will be held on **Tuesday, December 13, 2011, from 3:00 PM until 9:00 PM.** The purpose is to elect one (1) Commissioner for a three (3) year term. Any resident who has lived in the South Huntington Water District for at least thirty (30) days and who is a registered voter is eligible to vote in the election.

For your convenience, there are two polling locations:

- **King of Kings Lutheran Church on Old South Path in Melville**
- **Water District Administration Building at the corner of Fifth Avenue South and West 13th Street in Huntington Station.**

**NEW
Northern
Polling Site**
★★★★★

Thanks For Heeding The Call!

The extended heat and dry weather spell of July, 2011, resulted in a tremendous demand for water from our customer base. While our District resources were able to meet that demand, with no weather relief in sight, we became concerned that our water reserves used for emergency preparedness might run low. Using our newly established automated phone calling system, South Huntington asked our consumers to conserve water during the weekend of July 23-24. The response from you was immediately evident and allowed us to "catch up" on our emergency reserves. It was also a very successful first test of our automated calling system, put in place to keep our residents aware of important developments in the Water District.

So a hearty "Thank You" to all of South Huntington Water's customers!



The Eight-Time Winner of Suffolk County's "Best Tasting Water"

WaterTalk

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Board of Water Commissioners

Paul J. Tonna, Chairman
Ciro DePalo, Treasurer
Dominick P. Feeney, Secretary

Superintendent, Kevin Carroll