



# ALBERTSON

## WATER DISTRICT NEWS

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# Meeting Hurricane Irene **HEAD ON.**

**S**he came. She saw. But she didn't conquer...at least not in the Albertson Water District. Hurricane Irene's assault on Long Island left damages that took weeks to clean up. In the AWD, there was no interruption or stoppage of water service, thanks to advance preparation, the deployment of our Hurricane Emergency Plan, and the dedicated efforts of the AWD staff.

### Starting Early, Staying Late

"Preparing for what could be a major event has to start early," Commissioner Howard Abbondandolo commented. "Our preparation started as the storm's progress was tracked days in advance. While inspections are regularly scheduled, before Irene's impending assault, additional supplies of fuel and water treatment products were brought in. Our water storage facilities were filled to capacity and the filling of the elevated 500,000 gallon tank on Shepherd Lane was a priority as the weight of the water in the tank made the tank less vulnerable to the expected high winds."

*(L to R) Commissioner Abbondandolo inspecting a generator with Albertson Water District employee John Rotolo, Supervisor, Water Plant Operations.*



On Saturday August 27, 2011, Water Plant Operator Joseph Bonavoglia was to work his regularly scheduled 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. shift. Superintendent Henriksen and the commissioners were on hand to further assess the situation and then made arrangements to bring in other personnel as needed. Water Plant Operator Ken Podlaski was brought in at 4:00 p.m. and, under the supervision of the Superintendent, was deployed to assist in starting all five of the District's standby generators and transfer all operations over to emergency power there by eliminating the District from the electric grid. After this task was completed there was not much more to do other than wait for the storm to pass.

On Sunday August 28, 2011 at 6:00 a.m., after the storm had passed, Water Plant Operator Bob Portelli was brought in to perform the routine daily operations of the District. Under the direction of Superintendent Henriksen, District personnel were deployed to assess the storm damage throughout the District. Although the District itself received no damage other than the inconvenience of having to be on standby power, it was discovered that there were a number of downed trees blocking main roads. Being that town crews were over burdened with the number of downed trees throughout the Town of North Hempstead, and that many of the roads in the Albertson Water District were impassable, AWD personnel took on the task of clearing trees from the...

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intersection of Roslyn Road and I.U. Willets to the Northern State Parkway entrance on I.U. Willets Road.

The clearing of the downed trees was necessary to prepare for emergency situations such as a water main break, fire or the need for medical assistance. By 4:00 p.m. Sunday, after some District employees had worked upwards of 36 hours straight, the commissioners declared that the situation at hand was stable and that all District employees be released for a much needed break.

#### Generating Safety

The AWD has long followed a proactive disaster response program that includes emergency generators, and they measured up to the challenge of Hurricane Irene. Each of our five well pump stations has a standby generator with sufficient capacity to power the 100-horsepower electric well motors as well as the additional equipment needed to continue supplying residents with water. AWD personnel kept the generators (4 natural gas and 1 diesel) operating from Saturday night prior to Hurricane Irene hitting, through Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> when LIPA restored full electric across the District.

#### The Importance Of Training

Our previous Albertson Water District newsletter featured an article entitled "Ongoing Training: A Way of Life." It discussed the continuing education courses taken by AWD professional to keep up with latest industry trends and NYS requirements. The most recent completed course in cooperation with Homeland Security and FEMA was incredibly timely... "Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities."

Commissioner Richard Ockovic commented, "There were serious problems everywhere and we removed downed trees throughout the District. I.U. Willets Road was particularly hard hit. AWD crews removed in excess of a half dozen trees to keep the road passable in the event of an emergency."

#### After Hurricane Irene

Commissioner Ken Vey noted, "Mother Nature is extremely unpredictable. Storms of Irene's caliber aren't regular occurrences on Long Island, but they can develop unexpectedly at almost any time. It's important to let our customers know that the Albertson Water District is prepared and trained to deal with such emergencies, including storms like Hurricane Irene."

*(L to R) Albertson Water District Commissioners Howard Abbondandolo, Richard Ockovic and Kenneth Vey.*



## EMERGENCY Notification Available



"Storms like Hurricane Irene are evidence enough to sign up for our **SwiftReach Emergency Notification System**," says Commissioner Howard Abbondandolo. "**SwiftReach** calls residents automatically with a pre-recorded message in the event of a water emergency, and all we need is your phone number and how you would like to be notified... either cell phone, or by text message and/or email."

**SwiftReach** is free to all residents and information is strictly confidential.

**Contact the Albertson Water District at (516) 621-3610 to be included. Visit our website at [www.albertsonwater.org](http://www.albertsonwater.org) for more information.**