



## News Release

September 9, 2011

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### **Storm-Surge Flooding along Long Island's Coastline:** [USGS New York Water Science Center](#) Records Significant Storm Surge from Tropical Storm Irene

Storm-surge flooding along coastal areas of Long Island and New York City reached moderate to major levels as Irene crossed western Long Island as a strong tropical storm. Prior to the storm's arrival, crews from the USGS installed 36 temporary storm-surge and barometric-pressure sensors and 2 rapid-deployment gages across the region. These temporary instruments supplemented an existing USGS network of 11 coastal monitoring stations on Long Island. The instruments were installed to monitor the potential impacts from Hurricane Irene as it moved up the coast. This New York deployment was part of a broader, regional effort by the USGS that installed over 250 temporary sensors from North Carolina to Maine. Crews from the USGS New York Water Science Center are currently recovering these sensors and beginning to process the collected data.

The USGS studies the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms to better understand potential impacts on coastal communities and habitats. Storm surges are increases in ocean water levels typically generated at sea by strong storms and can have devastating coastal effects. The data that the sensors produce will help define the depth and duration of overland storm surge, as well as the time of its arrival and retreat. This information will help public officials assess storm damage, discern between wind and flood damage, develop better land use and building codes, provide critical data for more accurate modeling and prediction, and help increase public safety.

The location and availability of data from these sensors can be obtained from the following USGS webpage: [http://water.usgs.gov/osw/floods/2011\\_HIrene/index.html](http://water.usgs.gov/osw/floods/2011_HIrene/index.html).

A brief [summary](#) of the coastal flooding from Irene's storm surge and a [table](#) of provisional storm-tide elevations for Long Island and New York City are available.

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