



Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort

TIDES' Response Analysis

February 2013

Background Information

Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast in late October 2012, and quickly became one of the most costly storms in United States history in terms of damage and disruption, second only to Hurricane Katrina. The storm flooded parts of New Jersey and New York, and knocked out power along the East Coast. The United States enacted measures to prepare for the hurricane, learning from Katrina that preparation and evacuation can mitigate loss of life. As millions in New York and New Jersey lost their power, relief organizations mobilized to help. TIDES went to work by facilitating relief efforts, providing an example of the benefits of public-private partnership during a natural disaster.



TIDES' Response

TIDES helped the Sandy relief effort by facilitating a transaction of information between its network and a local New York NGO. Lisa Orloff, of the [World Cares Center](#), contacted TIDES after the storm, and asked for help with heating solutions for people in Rockaway, NY, who had lost their power and heat. The TIDES team went to work and contacted the STAR-TIDES network for any information about sustainable heating solutions that would benefit the people of Rockaway. TIDES sent out the call to the network via email asking for information about non-electric heating solutions that could provide heat for single rooms to support relief efforts. Specifically, TIDES asked for heating solutions that were portable, low cost, commercially available, non-electric, and safe for indoor use.

Partner Support

Members of the STAR-TIDES network responded with many different ideas to solve Orloff's request. Mark Apfelbacher, Director of Environmental

Procurement for [The Stratford Companies](#), responded with information about a portable catalytic space heater, and provided 1,200 of the units to World Cares Center for use to the relief effort. The propane heater is small, safe for indoor use, and retails for \$45. Stratford also procured the propane required for the people of Rockaway to use these heaters.

The Hurricane Sandy call to the network was an important realization of efforts TIDES practices during quarterly DoD-sponsored Research and Experimentation for Local and International Emergency First-Responders (RELIEF) exercises held at Camp Roberts, California. The RELIEF events help to allow different disaster relief organizations to meet and share technology, ideas, and strategies for dealing with crises. By meeting and establishing relationships before disasters strike, the first responders are better able to collaborate during emergencies.

Date	Details
10/22/12	NOAA announces Tropical Storm Sandy
10/29/12	Sandy makes landfall in Atlantic City with winds up to 80mph
11/18/12	Lisa Orloff contacts TIDES for heating solutions
11/18/12	TIDES makes email call to the network for heating solutions
11/26/12	Mark Apfelbacher responds with Portable Catalytic Space Heaters
Nov-Present	Lisa Orloff works with Mark Apfelbacher to get heating solutions to Rockaway, NY

Response Timeline