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# Newsday

SPORTS FINAL

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER



HI 29° LO 15°  
WINDY, SNOW EARLY

# TAKEN BY STORM

## Snow, wind slam Island

STORIES ON A2-6

UPDATES AT [NEWSDAY.COM](http://newsday.com)

A commuter  
at Ronkonkoma  
LIRR station

PHOTO BY JAMES CARBONE

# 1-2 PUNCH HITS



PHOTO BY JIM STAUBITSER

**UNIONDALE.** Cars wait at a Sunoco station on Hempstead Tpke.

## Gas shortage unlikely despite panic-buying

BY TOM INCANTALUPO  
tom.incantalupo@newsday.com

Petroleum industry experts said yesterday they don't expect the current storm to disrupt the supply of gasoline to Long Island, as happened after super-storm Sandy.

The one caveat: If the blizzard causes widespread power outages in the region, including at gasoline stations and a gasoline pipeline from New Jersey to Long Island, the supply could get crimped.

Panic-buying by motorists preparing for the snowstorm caused some stations to run out of gas. But distribution terminals on the Island have adequate supplies, and more gasoline is available for shipment to them as soon as the storm passes, said an official at Northville Industries, whose Holtsville terminal is a major distribution point for gasoline.

Sandy flooded and knocked out power to refineries, many distribution terminals and gas stations in the metropolitan area on Oct. 29, resulting in long lines at stations still pumping, and panic-buying. The situation was alleviated as supplies improved and New York and New Jersey instituted a gasoline rationing system based on car li-

cense plate numbers.

"I think this will be completely unlike Sandy, and it will be fine," said the Northville official, who declined to be named.

It's all a matter of electricity, the official said: "Unless there is a loss of power in New Jersey, which would preclude us from loading barges, everything should be fine."

He said two barges, loaded with 80,000 barrels and 55,000 barrels, respectively, of gasoline, are ready to leave New Jersey terminals in New York Harbor for his dock in Port Jefferson once the storm passes. That gasoline represents a five- or six-day supply for his terminal, he said.

Industry executives say another major terminal, at Inwood, whose closure after Sandy worsened the Island's shortage, is fully operational.

And they note that January and February are periods of seasonally low demand for gasoline. Severe snowstorms tend to reduce demand further as drivers postpone unnecessary trips.

"There's nothing like 10 inches of snow to really crimp gasoline demand," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst for the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J.



**FORECAST**

TODAY

29°



TOMORROW

33°



MONDAY

43°



# LI: SNOW, WIND

**MINEOLA.**  
Pedestrians  
trudge along  
snow-covered  
Old Country  
Road yesterday.

## Storm turns rush hour into slush hour; thousands lose power, many flights canceled

Two major highways in Suffolk were closed to all but emergency vehicles last night as the first major snowstorm of the season gripped Long Island without causing the massive problems initially predicted.

Authorities shut down the Long Island Expressway and Sunrise Highway just before 10 last night to all but emergency vehicles, citing severe weather.

By the time the brunt of the storm arrived about 6 p.m., winds had gusted up to 52 mph on Plum Island, and Setauket and Mount Sinai area had the biggest snow fall — 19 inches, the National Weather Service said.

But by 9 p.m., no serious problems were reported in power outages, train delays and fender-bender-type accidents.

“We’ve dodged the forecasted bullet,” Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano said shortly after 9 p.m., having found isolated flooding and other problems on his blizzard tour of the county.

Though more snow is expected to fall, he said, residents should be home for the night, giving work crews time to clear the roads by morning.

A Suffolk County spokeswoman last night said there were no reports of serious wind, snow and flood damage, adding that crews were continuing to plow and salt the roads overnight.

The powerful snowstorm walloped Long Island last night, shutting down airports, making roads treacherous and knocking out power to thousands of homes.

Heavy snow fell throughout Nassau and Suffolk, and whipping winds limited visibility, turning the evening rush on the LIE and other major routes into a slippery slog.

Forecasters expected nearly 2 feet of snow to pile up in parts of Suffolk by this morning.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo declared a state of emergency yesterday afternoon to help deal

This story was reported by **Bill Bleyer, Alfonso A. Castillo, Keith Herbert, Mark Harrington, Victor Manuel Ramos** and **Ellen Yan**. It was written by **Bart Jones**.

**NOW ONLINE**  
See photos and video  
of how Long Islanders  
coped with the storm.  
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with “a serious, severe storm,” but also offered a ray of optimism just three months after superstorm Sandy.

“We’ve been through worse,” he said. “So it’s all relative, at the end of the day.”

The wrath of the mammoth winter storm, on course to punish much of the Northeast, was felt on Long Island by early evening. By 7 p.m., wind gusts were measured at 48 mph and 11 inches of snow had fallen in Stony Brook, the National Weather Service said.

Several thousand flights in and out of New York were canceled, and airports throughout the region closed after nightfall. Many schools and civic organizations scrapped afternoon and evening classes or activities.

Several roads on the Island, including the Seaford Oyster Bay Expressway, were closed by authorities after being deemed impassable.

The storm’s powerful winds also played havoc with the Island’s fragile power grid, still recovering from Sandy. By 10 p.m., there were more than 10,000 power outages in Nassau and Suffolk, according to LIPA.

National Grid said its estimate of about 100,000 storm-caused power outages could be revised upward if conditions

worsened during the night, but it didn’t expect any blackouts to last more than a day.

There were no immediate reports of major flooding. With a new moon bringing high tides, the storm surge was expected to be as high as 4 to 5 feet.

MTA officials planned to continue Long Island Rail Road service during the storm but cautioned that they would have to stop operations to clear tracks after snow accumulations of a foot or more.

Long Islanders rushed to supermarkets and hardware stores to stock up on supplies. There were also long lines at some service stations, with anxious motorists fearing a reprise of Sandy’s gas shortages.

The only major grocery store still open in Far Rockaway, Queens, was packed with customers yesterday afternoon.

Leeann Rivera, 43, stocked up on cat food with her 9-year-old son, Frankie. The Sandy victim was able to move back from a hotel to her apartment only last week.

“A little snow doesn’t scare me,” Rivera said. “But if we were talking about the type of damage that Sandy did, I’d be gone. I would leave New York right now.”

Ann Marie Brady and her husband were planning to ride out the storm on the second floor of their Lindenhurst house — still under repair after Sandy. They nervously watched the Great South Bay and had plans for a quick evacuation with his 12-year-old daughter, Morgan, and their year-old son, John.

“The minute it gets scary, we’ll be gone,” said Brady, 39, a first-grade teacher. “If I see that the streets start to flood, then we leave.”

A blizzard warning remained in effect until 1 p.m. today for Nassau and Suffolk, and New York City, where 11-14 inches of snow were expected.

With AP

TUESDAY

45°



WEDNESDAY

36°



PHOTO BY HOWARD SCHNAPP

**COVERAGE  
CONTINUES**  
NEXT PAGE

## Airports &amp; transit



PHOTO BY PATRICK E. MCCARTHY

**QUEENS.** A spectator yesterday watches aircraft taxi at LaGuardia Airport, where flights are to resume today.

## AIRPORTS

**Kennedy Airport** closed at 6 last night and will reopen later today. Flights into and out of **LaGuardia Airport** were

canceled. Flights will resume there today. At **Long Island MacArthur Airport**, both airlines will resume service today.



PHOTO BY CRAIG RUTTLE

**MANHATTAN.** Passengers fill the Penn Station LIRR waiting area as they anticipate the severe weather.

## TRANSIT

■ **The LIRR** said it may have to temporarily suspend all service if snow accumulations reach more than 12 inches. ■ During heavy snowfall, the **MTA** may have to store some subway trains below ground on express tracks, limiting some express service.

■ **Nassau's NICE Bus** said that the agency expects that bus service today will be "severely impacted with delays and possible service interruptions" and urged customers to plan accordingly. ■ **Amtrak** service to Boston has been suspended.

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## Electricity &amp; gas

## ELECTRIC

Outages should be reported by calling 800-490-0075, online at [liaccount.com/outage](http://liaccount.com/outage) or by texting OUT to 695472.

## GAS

Gas leaks should be reported to **National Grid** at 800-490-0045. If you suspect a leak, all occupants should leave the house right away.

## Carbon monoxide

## IN THE CAR

- Make sure your exhaust pipe is free from snow before starting your vehicle.
- Do not sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running, unless a window is open.
- Never leave a car running in a garage even with the garage door open.

## IN THE HOME

- Never run a generator in the home, garage or crawl space. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home. When running a generator outdoors, keep it away from open windows and doors.
- Never burn charcoal in homes, tents, vehicles, or garages.
- Never install or service combustion appliances without proper knowledge, skills and tools.
- Never use a gas range, oven or dryer for heating.
- Never put foil on the bottom of a gas oven because it interferes with combustion.
- Never operate an unvented gas-burning appliance in a closed room or in a room in which you are sleeping.
- Always have a battery- or electric-powered carbon monoxide detector to alert you to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in your home.
- Closely inspect areas around and over gas meters, service hookups and vents.

## Staying warm

- **Gather together.** A crowded room becomes warmer than one with just a few people inside. Close doors to all but essential rooms.
- **Open curtains and shades** to let the sun's warmth in, then close them at dusk.
- **Wear extra, loose layers** of clothing and a head cover, and use layers of blankets on beds. Do not use electrical generators inside, prop open the oven door or keep oven burners on.



PHOTO BY STEVE PROST

**EAST NORTHPORT.** A Suffolk crossing guard bundles up.

## Shoveling tips

- **Clear the snow every few inches** instead of waiting for the snow to stop falling before you head outdoors.
- **Wear breathable layers.** Avoid heavy wools, man-made materials or other materials that don't allow perspiration to evaporate.
- **Push, don't lift.** If you push the snow to the side rather than trying to lift the snow to remove it, you exert less energy and put less stress on your body.
- **Take frequent breaks** and stay hydrated.
- **Pay attention to your**



PHOTO BY STEVE PROST

**EAST NORTHPORT.** Will Henle shovels at Larkfield Lanes.

**surroundings.** When shoveling snow near streets, be aware that vehicles may not have good traction in the snow and ice.

Local  
contacts**NASSAU**

**North Hempstead:** Call 311 or 516-TOWN-311 for a service rep or go to northhempstead.com.

**Hempstead:** Call 516-489-5000 or visit townofhempstead.org.

**Oyster Bay:** Go to oysterbaytown.com or call highway department to report downed trees at 516-677-5757.

**City of Glen Cove:** Go to glencove-li.us or call the Department of Public Works at 516-676-4402.

**City of Long Beach:** Visit longbeachny.org or call city hall at 516-431-1000.

**SUFFOLK**

**Babylon:** Visit townofbabylon.com or call the public safety department at 631-422-7600 to report downed trees.

**Brookhaven:** Call the highway department at 631-451-9200 to report downed trees or visit brookhaven.org.

**East Hampton:** Go to town.east-hampton.ny.us or call the highway department to report roadway obstructions at 631-324-0925.

**Huntington:** Visit huntingtonny.gov or call its 24-hour emergency number, 631-271-6573, or for downed trees, 631-499-0444.

**Islip:** Visit townofislip-ny.gov or call 631-224-5600 to report downed trees or power lines.

**Riverhead:** Call the storm hotline at 631-727-3200 or visit townofriverheadny.gov.

**Smithtown:** Call the Public Safety Department at 631-360-7553

**Southampton:** Go to southamptontown-ny.gov or call 631-283-6000

**Southold:** Visit southoldtownny.gov or call 631-765-1800.

**Shelter Island:** Visit shelterislandtown.us or call 631-749-0291.

# NAT'L GRID ON THE CASE

## 1,000 ground workers aim to restore storm outages

BY MARK HARRINGTON  
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National Grid yesterday was preparing for a “significant” restoration effort with a ground force of 1,000 workers as a major winter storm bore down on an electric system just recovered from superstorm Sandy.

Yesterday, National Grid said its estimate of about 100,000 power outages from the blizzard could grow if conditions worsened, but that it did not expect them to last more than a day. By 10 p.m., more than 10,000 customers were without power, according to the Long Island Power Authority.

On its first day in the driver’s seat of LIPA’s storm response, National Grid said it had hired 240 out-of-state high-voltage-line workers and 100 tree trimmers from outside. They will help the 500 local linemen and 150 tree trimmers already working for the company.

The New York Power Authority, meanwhile, has staff members on Long Island supporting National Grid’s response to the storm, according to a source in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s administration, which is communicating directly with National Grid executives.

Asked if National Grid executives are required to seek LIPA approvals for all storm-response decisions, the source said, “That is not happening.”

The roughly 1,000 people National Grid has on the ground are in sharp contrast to the more than 14,000 who ultimately helped restore power after Sandy, which cut the juice to more than 1 million Long Islanders.

At a briefing yesterday, John



**BETHPAGE.** Utility trucks from Ohio and Indiana stand by at Bethpage State Park last night.

Bruckner, president of National Grid’s Long Island electric-system division, said the utility was ready for the storm, which he predicted “will cause damage.”

The company expects “significant restoration efforts,” he said, but added that he expects that any outages will be restored within a day.

Michael Taunton, the chief operating officer at LIPA, was introduced on the call, but Bruckner led it.

Bruckner said while the LIPA system endured significant damage during Sandy, “I will tell you that the damage . . . has been repaired.”

He said National Grid is fully stocked with material — after replacing thousands of telephone poles, transformers and hundreds of miles of wire after Sandy. “We do not expect any material shortages throughout this event,” he said.

He said he doesn’t expect storm surge levels to cause any-

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See what National Grid  
said about the storm.  
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where near the flooding damage that Sandy did, but the company has sandbagged substations in areas where flooding could be a problem, including one in Oyster Bay.

Having more than 240 extra workers on the ground before the storm would be a game changer in terms of response, Bruckner said. “We didn’t see the [worker] resources until many days into Sandy,” which required more than two weeks for full restoration.

National Grid will manage the restoration effort from its Hicksville headquarters, a

major change from Sandy, when crews were dispatched locally from its scores of substations throughout Long Island.

Taunton, LIPA’s finance chief who was recently named chief operating officer, said that while LIPA has passed off the prime communications and command function, it continues to maintain an “oversight” role of National Grid and other normal functions during the storm.

Asked specifically what oversight role he’d play, he said LIPA was involved in “pre-meetings” to determine “what type of resources we need” and in “working together in communicating with the governor’s office.”

The Cuomo administration source said state officials were “communicating [directly] with National Grid, monitoring their response to the storm.”

**COVERAGE CONTINUES**

**NEXT PAGE**

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