

To the Editor:

I trust some of your readers might be interested in a compilation I have put together of Hurricane Sandy fatalities in the US showing cause of death, age and gender of victim—it is a part of a larger project I have been engaged in for some time, namely compiling information on US disasters historically wherein 10 or more fatalities result (over 4,900 and counting).

The largest fatality count I have seen in the press (Reuters) has been 131 fatalities. I have compiled data on a range of 149 to 155 fatalities in the US, including one in Puerto Rico. There is a range because several fatalities reported in the press are not counted as hurricane-related fatalities by government officials—essentially State Medical Examiner Offices. Many of the entries have been verified via communications with an assortment of government agencies—State and local police, State Emergency Management Agencies, and local coroners and State Medical Examiner Offices.

The listing below is a segment, showing cause of death, followed by a summary of fatalities by age groupings, of a larger document I have compiled. I trust you will be able to place the broader 39-page document on your website. It arranges fatalities by State and locality, cause of death, age of decedent, and concludes with a short description of each fatality arranged alphabetically by State. It also includes footnotes for each listing.

Sincerely,

Wayne Blanchard, PhD
Retired, FEMA Higher Ed Program Director

PS1: The categories chosen to show cause of death are in some cases subjective, if not arbitrary (accidents), and could be broken out differently, or, in some cases, listed in more than one category. Readers can make their own determinations on that score, especially after looking at the more detailed breakouts at the end of the website document.

PS2: Your readers may have information that would change what I have provided. I would welcome emails that concern omissions or deletions provided that they contain sufficient detail as to allow for verification. I can be reached at wayneblanchard@embarqmail.com.

Editor's Note: Due to concerns of privacy, the name of each decedent was removed.

OCT 29-30, 2012, HURRICANE SANDY FATALITIES

149-155 Blanchard tally based on State, local and Puerto Rico breakouts below.

131 Reuters. "Storm Sandy blamed for at least 132 deaths in US, Canada," 11-16-2012¹

Summary of fatality causes	
Drownings tidal surge, rising water	38 - 39
Tree falls/breaks	26
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	13 - 15
Vehicle accidents	14
Falls (inside, esp. down dark stairs, power out)	12
Exposure/hypothermia	12
Accidents, miscellaneous	10
Fires/burns	5 - 7
Drowning accidents	3
Life-assistance equipment failures, power out	2 - 3
Electrocution/downed electrical wires	2
Falls, outside	2
Heart attacks	2
Maritime, HMS <i>Bounty</i> ship sinks	2
Asthma attack	1
Suicide, despondent, tree fall destroyed home	1
Unknown/not disclosed	3

Age of fatalities breakout	
1 to 10	3
11 to 19	6
20 to 29	11
30 to 39	7
40 to 49	10
50 to 59	28
60 to 69	30
70 to 79	23
80 to 89	21
90 to 99	7
Age not noted	8

Gender of fatalities breakout	
Male	98
Female	56
Total	154

BREAKOUT OF FATALITY CAUSES

Accidents, miscellaneous: 10

1 CT, Middlebury, landscaper cutting down tree falls 40 feet, (Male, 53, Nov 4)
 1 MD, Prince George's Co., crushed changing tire in high wind, (Male, 35, Oct 30)
 1 NH, Lincoln, landslide at job site, construction co. owner, (Male, 42, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Bethlehem Twp. victim clearing debris, hit by vehicle, (Male, 67, Nov 5)
 1 NJ, Pattenburg, Hunterdon Co., hit by tree limb cleaning debris, (Male, 44; Oct 31)
 1 NJ, Sea Isle City. Hit by dump truck picking up debris, (Female, 69; Nov 24/25)
 1 NY, Long Island, No. Vly. Stream, hit by car crossing st., traffic lights out, (Male, 59)
 1 NY, Long Island, Nissequoque, SC worker killed clearing trees, (Male, 36, Nov 12)
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Park, bled to death, debris laceration, (Female, 50)
 1 PA, Lehigh Township, removing downed trees, hit by tractor, (Male, 67; Nov 2)

Asthma attack: 1

1 NJ, Newark, Essex Co., found in home without power, asthma attack, (Male, 65)

Carbon monoxide poisoning: 13 to 15

2 MD, Summerville, possible CO, generator in bedroom, (Male & Female, Oct 31)
 1 NJ, Edison, carbon monoxide from garage generator, (Male, 65, Oct 31)
 1 NJ, New Brunswick, carbon monoxide, restaurant basement generator, (Male, 55)
 2 NJ, Newark, generator outside bedroom window, (Male, 19, Male, 19)
 1 NJ, Trenton, Carbon monoxide, generator, 1st floor of home, (Female, 59, Nov 1)
 1 NY, New Cassel, Nassau Co., LI, coal-burn grill, home, (Female, 78; Nov 2)
 1 NY, Oceanside, Nassau Co., Long Island, CO gen. indoors, (Female, 44; Nov 5)
 1 NY, Shokan, Olive, Ulster Co., CO poisoning, basement generator, (Male, 75)
 1 PA, Albrightsville sec., Penn Forest Twp., Carbon Co., CO, (Male, 66)
 1 PA, Lower Macungie Township. CO, garage generator, (Female, 48; Oct 20)
 1 PA, Spring Township, Berks County, CO generator in garage, (Male, 86)
 1 PA, Upper Merion, Montgomery Co., garage generator under home, (Female, 90)
 1 WV, Arlington, Upshur Co., carbon monoxide, garage generator, (Male, 51)

Drowning accidents outside: 3

1 CT, Long Isl. kayaking, Sound off Silver Sands State Park, (Male, 21, Oct 28)
 1 CT, Milford, apparently swimming, jumped off pier, (Male, 34, Oct 29)
 1 Puerto Rico, man swept away in rain-swollen river, (Male, date unconfirmed)

Drownings, tidal surge, rising water: 38 to 39

1 NJ, Brick, Ocean County, drowned in home, (Male, 61, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Little Egg Harbor, Ocean Co., drowned at home, (Male, 72, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Newark, drowned in car by rising Passaic River, (Male, 47, Oct 29)
 1 NJ, South Hackensack, overflowing Hackensack River, (Male, 69, Oct 29)
 1 NY, Brooklyn, Coney Island, drowned in home, (Male, 87)
 1 NY, Brooklyn, Coney Island, drowned in home, (Female, 90)
 1 NY, Brooklyn, Gravesend, drowning, washed up on Shore Parkway, (Male, 51)
 1 NY, Brooklyn, Sheepshead Bay, drowned in home, (Male, 67)
 1 NY, Brooklyn, Sheepshead Bay, drowned in home, (Male, 72; Oct 29-30)
 1 NY, Manhattan, TriBeCa, attendant drowned in car, 1st floor garage, (Male, 57)
 1 NY, Queens, Belle Harbor, drowned in home basement, (Male, 57)
 1 NY, Queens, Belle Harbor, drowned in home basement, (Male, 67)
 1 NY, Queens, Howard Beach, drowned at home, (Female, 85, found Oct 30)²
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Beach, drowned, apartment basement, (Female, 58)
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Park, drowned, Beach St. home, (Male, 90)
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Park, apparent drowning at home, (Male, 72)
 2 NY, Staten Island, Great Kills, drowned at home, (Female and Male; 66 and 89)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, drowned at home, (Female, 59)
 2 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach drowned at home, (Female, 77, Male, 65)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, apparent home drowning (Male, 67)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, drowned, Naughton Ave. home, (Female, 62)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, drowned in home, (Male, 64; found Nov 9)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, paralytic drowned at home, (Male, 65)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, drowned in Grimsby Street home, (Female, 73)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Midland Beach, drowned in Grimsby Street home, (Female, 79)
 2 NY, Staten Island, Oakwood Beach, at home, (Male, 51, Male, 20)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Oakwood Beach, drowned at home, (Male, 53)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Ocean Breeze, drowned at Buel Ave. home, (Female, 89, Oct 30)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Ocean Breeze, drowning, found in back yard, (Male, 85)
 1 NY, Staten Island, South Beach, drowned in basement (Male, 61, Oct 29)
 2 NY, Staten Island, South Beach, washed away from mother, (2-Male children, 4, 2)
 2 NY, Staten Island, Tottenville, drowned at home, (Female & Male, 13 & 55)
 1 NY, Long Island, Island Park, Nassau Co., drowning, unknown
 1 NY, Long Island, Montauk, drowned walking dog near Ocean, (Female, 52)

Electrocution/exposed downed electrical wires: 2

1 NY, Queens, Richmond Hill, electrocuted, outside power line, (Female, 23, Oct 29)
 1 NY, Staten Island, South Beach, electrocuted, policeman, (Male, 28, Oct 29)

Exposure/hypothermia: 12

1 MD, Baltimore City, (Male, Oct 29)
 1 MD, Baltimore City, (Male, Oct 30)
 1 MD, Montgomery County, (Female, Oct 30)
 1 MD, Prince George's County, (Female, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Brigantine, Atlantic Co., hypothermia, home, refused to evac., (Male, 73)
 1 NJ, Forked River, Lacey Twp., Ocean Co., hypothermia, (Female, 94, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Long Branch, Monmouth Co., hypothermia, (Male, 61, Nov 4)
 1 NJ, Stafford, hypothermia, home, exposure to cold, (Male, 71, Oct 30-31)
 1 PA, South Whitehall Twp., Hypothermia, found in yard, (Female, 86, Oct 29-30)
 1 PA, Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, hypothermia, (Male, 93)
 1 WV, Crab Orchard, Raleigh Co., hypothermia, (Female, 88, Oct 29-30)
 1 WV, Sugar Creek, Webster Co., buried by snow in driveway, (Female, 71, Oct 31)

Falls (indoors, primarily down dark stairs, power outage): 12

1 MD, Baltimore City, fall, (MD Medical Examiner's Office.), (Female, Oct 31)
 1 NJ, Bayonne, Hudson Co., blunt impact injury, fell in dark home, (Female, 86)
 1 NJ, Berkeley Heights, Union Co., fall down stairs, no power (Female, 79, Nov 8)
 1 NJ, Hawthorne, Passaic Co., fall down stairs after electricity lost, (Male, 83)³
 1 NJ, Lambertville, Hunterdon Co., fell in home, no electricity, (Male, 79)
 1 NJ, Middlesex Borough, Middlesex Co., fall down dark stairs, (Female, 85, Oct 30)
 1 NJ, Summit, Union Co. Fall down stairs, home with no power, (Male, 93, Oct 31)
 1 NY, LI, Bay Shore, fall, found bottom of stairs, head injury, (Male, 80, Oct 29)
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Beach, fell down stairs, no power, (Male, 77, Nov 10)
 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Park, fell down dark stairwell, (Male, 78)
 1 NY, Staten Island, Shore Acres, fall down dark stairwell, (Male, 79, Oct 31)
 1 NY, Shokan, Olive, Ulster Co., fall down stairs looking for husband, (Female, 73)
 1 PA, Beach Lake, Wayne Co., fell down stairs, power out, dark house, (Female, 88)

Falls (outdoors, primarily wind-related): 2

- 1 NJ, Hamilton, Mercer Co., wind gust fells unnamed man in R. Johnson Hosp. parking lot, (Male, 58)
- 1 NJ, Ventnor, Atlantic Co., fall while moving car (Male, 93; Oct 30, dies Nov 6)

Fires/burns: 5 to 7

- 2 NJ, Middlesex Borough, home fire, candle?, (Male, 57, Female, 78)
- 2 NJ, Willingboro, house fire, possibly generator, (Male, 73, Female, 70, Nov 2)
- 1 NY, Glen Cove, L.L., Nassau County, burned by kerosene lantern, (Male, 87; Nov 4)
- 2 PA, Bensalem, Bucks Co. house fire, (Female, 64, and Female, 95)⁴

Heart attacks: 2

- 1 MD, Garrett County. Oakland vic., Heart attack shoveling snow, (Male, 80s, Nov 1)
- 1 NJ, Atlantic City, Atlantic Co. Heart attack during bus evac. (Female, 65; Oct 29)

Life-support/assistance equipment failures, power outage: 2 to 3

- 1 NJ, Jersey City, power out, oxygen machine bottle ran out, (Female, 65)
- 1 NJ, West Orange, Essex Co., power out, oxygen machine stops, (Female, 61; Nov 7)
- 1 NY, Manhattan, Gramercy, respirator power failure, (Female, 75, Oct 29)⁵

Maritime, ship sinks: 2

- 2 NC, HMS Bounty sinks (Female, 42, Female, 63; Oct 29)

Suicide: 1

- 1 PA, Honesdale, Wayne County, suicide after tree fall destroyed home (Female, 82)

Tree falls/breaks: 26

- 1 CT, Easton, falling tree kills volunteer firefighter hits fire truck, (Male, 55, Oct 29)
- 1 CT, Mansfield, tree fall, (Female, 90, Oct 29)
- 1 MD, Annapolis, Anne Arundel Co., clean-up contractor, (Male, 50, Oct 31)
- 1 MD, Pasadena, Anne Arundel Co., tree falls on home, (Male, 74, Oct 29)
- 1 NJ, Brick Township, Ocean Co., tree falls during cleanup, (Male, 61, Nov 22)
- 1 NJ, East Brunswick, Middlesex Co., tree break while trimming, (Male, 41)
- 1 NJ, Hawthorne, Passaic Co., trees fall onto home, (Male, 77, Oct 29)
- 1 NJ, Jefferson Township, Morris County, tree falls on home, (Male, 51; Oct 30)
- 1 NJ, Pattenburg, Hunterdon Co., hit by tree limb cleaning-up, (Male, 44; Oct 31)⁶
- 1 NJ, Princeton, cleaning debris from driveway, tree falls, (Male, 61, Oct 29)
- 2 NJ, Randolph, Morris Co., tree falls on their car, (Male, 54, and Female, 48, Everett)
- 1 NY, Long Isl. Nassau Co., Roslyn, tree fall in yard while outside, (Male, 84)
- 1 NY, Long Island, Suffolk Co., Commack, homeless staying in tent, (Female, 57)
- 1 NY, Long Isl. Suffolk Co., Hauppauge, cleaning-up, hit by branch, (Male, 66)
- 1 NY, Long Isl., Suffolk Co., Lloyd Harbor, tree fall, (Male, aged 39)
- 2 NY, NYC, Brooklyn, Ditmas Park, tree fall, (Male, 24, Male, 24)
- 1 NY, NYC, Queens, Flushing, tree falls on home, (Male, 29, Oct 30)
- 2 NY, North Salem, tree falls onto home, (Male, 11 & Male, 13)
- 1 NY, Pearl River, Orangetown, Rockland Co., tree fall on home, (Male, 51, Oct 29)
- 1 PA, Montrose, Susquehanna Co., tree fall, home yard, (Male, 8; Oct 29)
- 1 PA, Pike Township., near Boyertown, Berks County, tree fall on porch, (Male, 62)
- 1 PA, New Tripoli, Lynn Township, Lehigh Co., cleanup, hit by tree limb, (Male, 38)
- 1 WV, Philippi, Barbour Co., tree fall checking farm fences, (Male, 60)

Vehicle accidents: 14

- 1 MD, Dorchester County, vehicle incident, (MD MEO), (Female, Oct 30)
- 1 MD, Montgomery County, Germantown, car collision, (Male, 66, Oct 29)
- 1 NY, Greenburgh, car hits downed tree on Sprain Brook Parkway, (Male, 54)
- 1 NY, Kerhonkson, Ulster Co., mobile home debris hits car, (Female, 69, Oct 29)
- 1 NY, Long Island, Garden City, cycle crash, traffic lights out, (Male, 20, Oct 30)
- 1 NY, Port Jefferson, SUV collides with police car, (Female, 21, Oct 30)
- 1 NC, Dobson, Surry County, car hits downed tree, (Female, 25, Oct 29)
- 1 OH, Putnam County, car hits van on icy road, (Male, 22, Oct 30)
- 1 OH, Toledo, east of, car accident, (Female, 56, Oct 30)
- 1 PA, Upper Turkeyfoot Twp. Somerset Co., drowned, car slides into pond, (Female, 81)
- 1 PA, Wind Gap, Northampton Co., ATV hits downed tree, (Male, 17, Oct 29)
- 2 VA, Richmond, car accident, (Male, 52 and Male, 51; Oct 30)
- 1 WV, Davis, Tucker County, car slides into truck on icy road, (Female, 40; Oct 29)
- 1 WV, Preston Co., hospital-bound woman, with health emergency, car stranded in snow, (Female, 68)

Unknown/not disclosed/ not clear: 3

- 1 NY, Manhattan, Financial district, homeless man fall/drowned?, (Male, 55)
- 1 NY, Queens, Rockaway Beach, 87th street, (Female, 84)
- 1 VA, Northern.⁷

NOTES

- Does not include NH contractor landslide death, two OH highway deaths and one Puerto Rico flood death. Has 37 NJ deaths whereas NJ Medical Examiner lists 38; 53 NY deaths whereas we tally 64-66 from locality breakouts; and has 13 PA deaths whereas AP has 16 and we show 14-16, depending on the final determination of two fire deaths under investigation.
- In dispute. According to *Times Ledger*, Queens. "Howard Beach senior drowns in non-flood zone." 11-2-2012: "Neighbors of a Howard Beach woman who drowned during superstorm Sandy...described the storm surge as reaching the second floor of homes...'All of a sudden, it was upon us and it was too late' [one said]. 'As the gushing water filled the streets, residents said they heard their elderly neighbor [Ms. X.] yelling Monday evening, but the current was too strong to rescue her. 'We heard her screaming for help, but no one could get to her...the water was unbelievable.'" However, according to *DNAinfo.com* New York ("Hurricane Sandy's Death Toll in New York Climbs to 41." 11-9-2012), "Ms. X., 85, who was found dead inside XXX-25 98th St. in Queens by firefighters on Oct. 30, was...determined to have been the result of natural causes, the source said."
- Reclassified Dec 3 by the NJ Office of the State Medical Examiner, case number 16120788, as not Sandy-related.
- Not confirmed as hurricane-related – under investigation.
- "Among those who have been removed from the list of Sandy victims are Mrs Y, 75, who died in her Gramercy home on Second Avenue in Manhattan after power for her respirator shut off Monday night during the storm." (*DNAinfo.com* New York. "Hurricane Sandy's Death Toll in New York Climbs to 41." 11-9-2012.) When one reads the earlier *DNAinfo* article on her death (Patrick Wall. "Kips Bay Great-Grandmother Dies After Sandy Cuts Power to Oxygen Machine." 10-31-2012 – quoted from in the New York section below.) it does appear that her death was hurricane-related. According to Larry Neumeister of the *Huffington Post* ("Hurricane Sandy Deaths: Storm Was Cruel to New York's Elderly." 11-3-2012.), Mrs. Y "died from an apparent heart attack" Mrs.Y was still listed as a hurricane fatality in this Nov 13 update: *MyFoxNY.com* (Luke Funk) "Sandy deaths across Tristate region." 11-13-2012 update. At: <http://www.myfoxny.com/story/19951582/sandy-deaths-across-tristate-region>
- Star-Ledger*, NJ. "Remembering New Jersey's 40 victims of Hurricane Sandy." 12-2-2012. Not on State list sent to us Nov 20. But, a call to Hunterdon Co. Med. Exam. Office, Nov 21 confirms as hurricane-related accident. An emailed list received Dec 3 has the following listing, which we believe refers to the Z death.: Male, blunt trauma to the head, Main St., Asbury [Huntington County], NJ. Tree fell on decedent.
- A missing person found on Nov 11 in the "northern district," with no indication of death causation, according to VDEM Public Information Officer, Nov 20.