

Interview of resident of Mystic, CT, following Hurricane Sandy (October, 2012)

Transcript of <https://serc.carleton.edu/details/files/36874.html>

“Sunday evening a truck came down the street and told us that -- was blaring that -- we were evacuated and Pearl Street was under mandatory evacuation. And I live with two other people, two roommates, and one of them decided to leave and one of them decided to stay and I stayed as well, so there were two people in the house with my cat. We decided to stay. There a lot of people in my neighborhood that stayed we could have gone to friends’ house at higher ground to this building - a hurricane center that is on a generator, etc. - but we decided to stay because we didn’t want to move. I didn’t want to move my cat.

“There were fire engines driving up and down the street during the storm. I was a little nervous. I wouldn’t do it again. I wouldn’t stay in my house again. I felt.. I was really nervous when the wind was picking up and my house started to shake a little. I knew I probably should have left... but I was just being stubborn.

“So, I was glad I’d stayed the next day when nothing really bad happened but it could have been a lot worse. So I think that’s the last time I stay in the house I was supposed to be out of. As I did last year: last year [2011] I was evacuated and I left. And this year [2012] I was evacuated and I didn’t.”

[Interviewer: “So did last year’s evacuation experience make you want to stay at home?”]

“Yes because my house was totally fine last year. I was really, really freaked out last year and felt like I had to leave but then this year I knew that nothing really bad had happened to my house... and so I felt like I could stay. And I had waited kind of late if I wanted to evacuate I probably should have started packing some stuff on Sunday night Monday and not Monday. The Monday high tide freaked me out because I couldn’t drive home to my house. I got to this side of the river and the roads were flooded and I couldn’t get home. And I had a panic that I needed to be home. So I went home and I stayed.”