

Hurricane Sandy Emergency Floodwater Drainage

The devastating impact of Hurricane Sandy on New York City and the Northeast U.S. surprised some, but the people at Xylem were not among them. Xylem's dedicated water professionals stood ready to fight the surging seawaters and torrential rainfall that threatened thousands of homes and commercial properties in Sandy's path.

As early warning systems began to predict Sandy's path, Mike Delzingaro, Vice President of Xylem's dewatering business, and his entire team sprang into action. They spent the days leading up to the hurricane gathering hundreds of powerful Godwin brand dewatering pumps from all across the country and pre-positioning them in Xylem branch locations and distribution sites near the hurricane's projected path.

"We have a lot of experience with tough storms like this," said Delzingaro. **"We think of ourselves as the 'fourth emergency service' - 24/7 rapid reaction is part of our culture and our commitment to our customers."**

As this "superstorm" raged across the region on October 29 and 30, 2012, causing massive flooding and power outages, hundreds of Godwin brand Dri-Prime and Heida hydraulic submersible pumps were deployed to customers who needed to move massive amounts of water without any available electricity. Distributors of Xylem's Flygt brand submersible pumps prepared to help customers, as well. "For us, it's not just about selling or renting pumps," said Delzingaro. "We have a mission to help people stay safe and dry and we will install, maintain, service, and provide valued engineering advice to ensure that when the flooding comes, our customers are ready."

Xylem's dewatering pumps are made for various applications, including large-scale emergency and on-the-move projects. They are portable, capable of moving lots of water quickly and can be rented or purchased



as required. In addition, they feature the breakthrough Godwin Dri-Prime capability that provides automatic self-priming so operators don't have to fill the pumps with water manually.

From the World Trade Center site in New York City to a refinery in New Jersey, to numerous wastewater treatment plants and other flooded locations throughout the Northeast, customers used the pumps to minimize - or eliminate - flood damage at their operations.

One customer, a major wastewater treatment plant, was swamped by the storm surge and out of commission due to flooding. Xylem provided technical support along with diesel-driven hydraulic submersible pumps, centrifugal pumps and electric submersible pumps driven by generators, to dewater the plant that was four feet (1.2 meters) under water. Since completing the dewatering process, Xylem has continued to supply back-up equipment to ensure that the plant is protected from future storms or floods.

“At Xylem, our goal is to solve water - and that’s especially important in emergency situations like this one,” said Ken Napolitano, president of Xylem’s Applied Water Systems business. **“After Sandy slammed into the U.S., everyone with a flooded factory or wet basement was looking for solutions. Through the quick actions of our employees and our distribution network, plus an immediately available dewatering pump rental fleet, we were able to provide the right type of solutions for thousands of people.”**

Xylem also moved quickly to ensure that homeowners and small businesses had the pumps they needed to recover in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Pump distributors throughout the Northeast were supplied with excess inventory of Bell & Gossett and Goulds Water Technology branded sump pumps that could be used once power was restored to remove flood waters from basements and other low-lying structures.

Where power wasn't restored for days, customers used our Evacuator Series of dewatering pumps, which run on DC batteries and are capable of moving anywhere from 2000 to 8000 gallons of water per hour depending on the model. Xylem donated a number of Evacuator units to the affected communities, focusing on specific locations where they were best used.



The outfall structure of Lake Como in New Jersey was compromised by Hurricane Sandy. Eight Godwin Dri-Prime CD400M pumps and two CD225M pumps were installed to route water to the ocean during future rainwater storm events. Photo courtesy of Star News Group.