



*In Seaside Heights, New Jersey, Superstorm Sandy left the Jetstar roller coaster in the Atlantic Ocean.*

## FIVE YEARS AGO, IN OCTOBER 2012, SUPERSTORM SANDY DEVASTATED THE U.S. EAST COAST

**S**andy took the lives of 34 New Jersey residents, destroyed more than 72,000 homes and businesses, and caused over \$62 billion in damage.

The NJIT community responded to this terrible natural disaster with immediate assistance and farsighted planning for the future.

These are just a few examples —

During the height of the storm, NJIT graduate students studying emergency management were embedded in Newark's Office of Emergency Management to help the city's administration respond to the disaster.

In the immediate aftermath of Sandy, NJIT students serving as emergency-management interns in the Business Emergency Operations Center, supported

by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, worked to help ensure that donations which included food and clothing reached the Newark area's neediest residents.

Alternative Spring Break in the years following saw hundreds of students and other volunteers from NJIT assisting with the cleanup of debris, the renovation of homes and businesses, and the planting of protective dune grass on beaches in communities hard-hit by the storm. Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno expressed special appreciation on behalf of the state for these efforts in 2014.

Taking a longer and more comprehensive view of events such as Sandy, NJIT established the Center for Resilient Design ([centers.njit.edu/cfrd/](http://centers.njit.edu/cfrd/)), an architectural think tank dedicated to the rebuilding of storm-afflicted areas in

sustainable ways that can withstand future natural disasters.

The potential impacts of storms of Sandy's magnitude, possibly more frequent due to climate change as mentioned with respect to Hurricane Harvey, have also become an important aspect of research conducted by NJIT faculty in departments that include Chemistry and Environmental Science and Civil and Environmental Engineering. Such investigation at NJIT has been supported by funding from a growing range of sources, among them the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, which is dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. ■

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