

Neighbors Mourn Two Men Who Died in NYC Basements During Deluge

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A day after two men died in flooded basements in Brooklyn and Manhattan, locals reckoned Friday with the aftermath of the city's latest torrential downpour.

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15 floodwaters.

During the rainstorm, as water rushed down Kingston Avenue, a 39-year-old victim entered the basement to save one of his dogs, according to resident Kenneth Oates. "He went for one dog and he never came back," Oates said. "He gave away his life."

20 The Department of Buildings issued a **vacate** order for the building cellar, and Con Edison shut power at the request of the Fire Department because the basement was completely flooded. The waterline was visible at the top of the stairs leading to the basement, where FDNY divers recovered the body of the man around 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

25 Shanna, a resident who has lived in the building for three years, is on her way out to take a hot shower elsewhere. "Ask the city to fix the flooded area and clean the drain," she said. "Otherwise, it's a nice area."

The Red Cross offered temporary **shelter** to more than a dozen tenants over the weekend, though some residents said they were considering staying.

30 In Washington Heights, Juan Carlos Montoya Hernández lost his life in the **boiler room** of a building on West 175th Street. The 43-year-old assistant to the building's super was electrocuted while trying to pump out the flooding basement.

To tenants, he was lovingly known as "El Mexicanito," said resident Jhosmeily Hernández. "He was a good man, hardworking," Hernández said in Spanish.

35 Employees of a nearby bodega who were friends of Montoya Hernández set up a small **memorial** in the window, with flowers, two votive candles, and a photo with a handwritten note: "R.I.P. Carlitos."

The city experienced widespread flooding Thursday late afternoon, with commuters navigating through knee-deep water which also seeped into buses and the subway system.

Forecasts had predicted between 1.5 and 2 inches of rain between 2 and 10 p.m., but an inch fell in 10 minutes.

40 The intensity of an inch of rain in 10 minutes is about equal to six inches in an hour, according to the Department of Environmental Protection, more than four times what the sewer system can handle on average.

Extreme bursts of rain are expected to become more common and more intense due to climate change.

45 1. Define in English or give synonyms for the words in bold

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50 2. How did the flooding affect the residents of the buildings?

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3. What actions did the city take before and during the storm?

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4. How did residents react to the flooding, power outages, and lack of services?

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5. Why are extreme rain events becoming more frequent, according to the text?

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6. How does this article show challenges related to metropolisation in New York?

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7. What impression of New York does the article give to the reader?

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8. How does the article's portrayal of New York compare with the common image of the city?

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- 1/ Define in English or give synonyms for the words in bold: reckoned, torrential, vacate, shelter, boiler room, memorial.
reckoned – considered, faced
torrential – heavy, intense
80 vacate – leave, evacuate
shelter – refuge, safe place
boiler room – furnace room, utility room
memorial – tribute, remembrance
- 85 2/ How did the flooding affect the residents of the buildings?
Flooded basements, no power, no heat, no water, danger, disruption
- 3/ What actions did the city take before and during the storm?
Cut power, vacate orders, flood advisory, emergency crews, drainage checks
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- 4/ How did residents react to the flooding, power outages, and lack of services?
Went elsewhere for showers, stayed in dark, frustration, complaints
- 5/ Why are extreme rain events becoming more frequent, according to the text?
95 Climate change, extreme weather, more intense rainfall
- 6/ How does this article show challenges related to metropolisation in New York?
Overcrowding, vulnerable infrastructure, basement apartments, urban flooding
- 100 7/ What impression of New York does the article give to the reader?
Dangerous, vulnerable, affected by natural disasters, tragic
- 8/ How does the article's portrayal of New York compare with the common image of the city?
105 Contrasts with idea of New York as glamorous, safe, exciting, idealized city