

Interviewer: Dennis Owens

Interviewee: Richard Pastore

MU 005 HS

November 30, 2012

DO: Good afternoon, my name is Dennis Owens, today is Friday the 30th of November and I am here with Rich Pastore, who lives in Bricktown, New Jersey close to the water (Correction) you are right on the water, on a canal as I am looking out the back yard. I'm going to interview Rich as he was kind enough to let me come into his home to hear his story how he survived hurricane Sandy and the subsequent snowstorm Athena, I think it was named, and so we'll get underway. It is 1:30 in the afternoon on Friday, November 30. Rich please tell me your name and age and where you live.

RP: Ok, Richard Pastore, I'm 53 years old, and I live here in Brick, and I have been here, in this house since 2000, so about 12 years, although I lived about four blocks away for another 10 years before that so the total time in New Jersey, I think we moved down 1980, and so I've been here more than half my life before that I lived and grew up in one house in Brooklyn, that was it for the first 21 years of my life. And so that's like my background a little bit.

DO: Are you married and do you have a family with you?

RP: Single, single, it's just me.

DO: Ok. And what do you do for a living or are you self-employed?

RP: No, I work for a company called ETS, Educational Testing Services, ahh, and I work as a business analyst on a test called TOFEL (sic) which is a test of English as a foreign language and is a very, very big test worldwide. I really had not heard of it, I mean, I have heard about the GRE, which they also run but haven't heard of it until I started working there and it's actually a world-wide recognized test. I was pretty impressed, you know. I have been working there since about 2003 or 2004, so that's about it.

DO: You said earlier that you moved here into Brick, around 1980?

RP: Yeah, around that time 80, 81 around that time I can't remember the exact year or date, because it was near November to January timeframe.

DO: And, how do you think it has changed over the years?

RP: Oh, immensely, When my parents moved down to this area of Brick my father still lives here, my mother passed away, my father still lives in the Lake Riviera section, and when we first moved down, it was all pine trees, mostly and a few little communities and a couple stores and that has just grown the population increase here, I think when they moved down in 80 it was

something like 30 to 35,000 people and within a short span of about 10 years, so that's about 1980-90, so there was a year or two, maybe 2-3 years after they moved down there was this big growth, of people coming down here , ahh so it' s' changed dramatically in fact I said I used to live four blocks away from here and a little house that I bought and was fixing up you know to sell, and I used to take my bike out every day drive up and down all these roads. I may not know their names but I know each region of this whole area because this used to be a nice bike ride and I knew which roads would flood often, which wouldn't, and this development had started, Oh gosh, I'm going to guess maybe 94-95 or earlier but I remember when they started building houses here, I said boy, I wish I could live here. Ahh, But, I remember when they started going up I knew that this was a good area because, it was you know, not that it has a connection to the story but it is an area that did not flood and no matter what time I brought my bike down or what kind of storm we had after these streets were always great and they were still doing the building and construction. So, then when I went to buy a new house, I wanted to be on the water that was my dream from the time I lived in Brooklyn....

Door Bell rings and it is the heating and air conditioning technician checking for damage from the storm. Approximately 15 minute delay.

DO: We were talking about when you bought your home here on the water and that process .

RP: That was more a set of coincidences, I didn't come right here, it was one of the last places, the builder had explained that there were different heights and if you went for the first height, for crawlspace that was lowest, you actually got some money back but he said I refuse to do that I think that the area that you are in you need to have the height and to be very honest, [wasn't thinking about flooding I was thinking about more or less about crawlspace height, and I didn't want to climb through a crawlspace so I said No. No, I'll go for the highest level which will cost a little bit more and he said and he said "the cost will only be in material not in labor" because again it was his philosophy that we really should go for the highest to be safest. God Bless that man. (Laughter). Because in the end, those 2 inches made a significant difference so to everybody here in this neighborhood, so anyway that was it so I knew the area very well and I knew that where I was buying was not exactly flood prone at all so, I had confidence when I had bought here.

DO: Excellent. Did you have any training, or a prior to endure these or this type of a storm in maybe scouts or in the military?

RP: No, not at all. The only thing ... in the old house there were some significant problems in the area here with JCP&L, before and I would lose power on a monthly basis. I had like always about 100 candles and I was used to it. Like I would lose power for a day or so and the story was that I think it was for the last 6, 7, 8 years I can't remember how long ago it was, maybe even longer and probably longer, maybe just when I moved in here, so maybe 10 years ago, they kept having all these outages and everyone complained but it wasn't the right people complaining, you know what I mean? The area I lived in was lower income than the areas that would normally have power for a

while, but then it started getting worse and there was a big, big, Fourth of July weekend and everybody was looking to it because the year before it had rained through and the people really looking to this to boost the economy and the entire area lost power from JCP&L for the entire weekend and it wasn't a storm it was beautiful weather that was the thing so, that raised a big stink and the governor had to come and all that, [think it was Pataki [can't remember who it was but anyway, he came in and he had a big meeting with JCP&L to get their, sorta like ... , to understand what's going wrong with this area, why they have been so lax about it and during that meeting, as the story in the paper went, during the meeting at JCP&L. they lost power in that room So (Laughter between DO and RP) after that I had never lost power here, except maybe for 4 or 5 minutes at a time for all those years but I was very used to living without power for a few days, ya know, I got through that over and over ahm that's the only thing that had braced me for this, I have never been in areas where you had to worry about surviving for a while, I don't think I took any those precautions anywhere [have ever been so, you know, ahh ... yeah so it was really not much

DO: Well that sounds like you were truly prepared for whatever came along your way, (RP laughing says ... You would think) I'm just curious, was the town like the office of emergency management were they sending out the bulletins, calling

RP: You know it's funny for Irene, when Irene came last year we got the notice that areas, the barrier islands as always, were mandatory evacuations and this area the message said for other coastal areas we recommend evacuating is not mandatory at this time, but please we'll keep you updated, etc. And at the time, I thought, wow this hurricane is not just making landfall but the path is coming literally like right over the house. I mean it's coming to right up here in this area. And I thought, you know, maybe I should evacuate and [went to my Dad 's in Lake Riviera, and ahhh ... This place was fine; I didn't have to leave in fact the water never ever got anywhere nearboathouse. It did flood across the way which happens ... , that side is about 3 feet lower, at least 3 feet lower , cause it went to the neighbor across the way her house is very low lying, I can show you later, and the water went right up to her door [don't think she got any real significant flooding but it went right up to her door and I remember thinking last year well if that's what the hurricane can do and [still have 3 whole feet to the bulkhead and from the bulkhead its' not 3.5-4 feet to here so, I mean, [thought that the highest points, that's about 7 more feet I could have gone, 7-8 more feet, before I'd ever have to worry about flooding. So then the water receded you know, back to its normal level and then we didn't have any real significant wind damage. Wind here is constant , I mean we get wind gusts here from the summer storms sometimes because we are so close to the ocean that could be 6070, you know, the house when ['m up there is shaking sometimes, and, ahm it doesn't bother me. So it doesn't bother me, a, but, you know, so I'm just putting a context of what had happed last year, and how really I thought well if that's a category, that was also a category I hurricane and it lands on

Second interruption..... AC technician explains to Rich, what the damages are and when they can be fixed.

RP: Ahmm, I was saying but getting back to....

DO: You are used to floods and you had 7 feet you said....

RP: So yeah, the wind that's it, the wind worries, when we heard about this hurricane coming in and I knew it wasn't a normal hurricane, this time of year alone, was freakish and the size, but again, looking there at projections, it said they were assuming it might or might not be a category I, but what I heard was that you are going to have rain for days on end, it's not going to be like a real hurricane, but you know that was originally and then when they did the evacuation notice, which was that Sunday before and I will get to the timeline and everything, it never mentioned anything about suggesting that I go, it just said Barrier Islands mandatory that was it. But, let me make this very clear, I'm a kind of person who really believes in you're an adult you make your own decisions and if! choose not to evacuate that's my responsibility. So, I don't ever say well they didn't tell us to evacuate. You know, that's irrelevant to me, you make your own decisions and they can tell you to evacuate or not, but I really do believe you own your responsibility. If something bad happens, well then you have no one to blame but yourself. So at that time, you know, it's Sunday I don't know if you want me to start that now?

DO: Yeah, let's get in; tell me about what transpired from about Sunday....

RP: Actually, you know, let me back up just one more thing, I have to go on a tangent, I promise you I'll come back but I have been thinking a lot about this the last couple of days cause I have been reading some stuff, and I think there is a real problem we have in this country with we always point to the quality and inferiority of our educational system, etc. and people are pointing fingers there, but you want to know something, I have really grown to believe over the last few years even, that the problem we have with our education is at the adult level. I'm glad for you, you know, because our society it seem like in this country always just wants everything dumbed down and made simple and if you try to make things complex all you get is like negative attitudes you know so you want to educate adults, its' like, "I'm already out of school, I don't need to learn anything." The reason I bring that up is because ,when the storm was, whenever they talk about any hurricane all you ever hear is category and they have to give it. .. Its' like, they can't even just tell you what the wind speeds are anymore because they used to give you all sorts of data; barometric pressure, wind speeds this and that, how long sustained and that's just too complicated for people so they have to come up with a simple category systems and then you get like, well its' got 70 MPH winds that means its' a category I right? And then they have to give it a color bar so what you end up is, 3 descriptions for one point of data, because one isn't enough, because people are supposedly just too stupid to understand that if you tell them around 75-80 MPH I know what that means ... so you got to have a color, a label, whereas what they should be doing is the reverse is giving you more data about, I read this is really true about a week ago I read that, NOAA said that the storm we had, had a kinetic energy level, I have never even heard of that before, had a kinetic energy level on their scale of 5.8, where 6 is the highest. And kinetic energy means the amount of energy has to push water; wind etc. Now if I knew that we were getting the storm

which had a kinetic energy of 5.8, plus it had 70 MPH wind, plus the ahm water levels, you know, were going to rise(Tide rising) If I had a variety of information, I could have probably made a better intelligent choice. Although that's fine, I'm just saying , we don't get that because that's too much information and people denigrate that kind of thinking they denigrate and they belittle anyone who wants to have more knowledge or, or, ask for more knowledge. Instead, it's got to be simple and stupid, you know, everything, labels everything, have to be blunt and stupid and simple when that happens you lose information. So anyway, I did not know that and that's also was a tiny little article.... Even now, you think that people would be saying Wow, who knew that storm was powerful although it was only category I, it wasn't category 5 and it was just .2 away from the top of that scale, so you know makes you realize that this was no!. .. They ... just calling it a category one hurricane is not sufficient. So anyway I went over that because really, I'm not saying that I mayor may not have done things differently, but, well I think I might have; I think I might have taken it a little more seriously cause I was so surprised by what happens, so on Sunday we get the evacuation notice and they tell us that from Sunday,8 or 9 o'clock on, maybe it was even earlier 7, whatever it was, there will be a restriction on all traffic except emergency, so I felt like, I gotta make my mind up today and there wasn't enough information but what it looked like again was category one, coming on land and I said you know what there was one piece of data I do know and I kinda pushed aside, but I said to myself, I couldn't tell from the tracking where it was going to go at that time [mean they were showing but you can't always go [mean you can go to five different weather places and they are all going to show different tracking, so I like to look at the data myself, like to figure out what is the most likely I look at NOAA etc. and I couldn't even tell, I just couldn't tell like most people too accurately that it was too early so I kept thinking if it follows Irene' s path, I should be fine. It would be the same kinda storm. What I was hoping for is it wouldn't track south because that' s the piece of data that I kinda pushed out of my mind, because whenever a hurricane hits you don't want to be on the north end of it, you want to be on the south end. And now because the way the winds come ah they're coming off the ocean and since it moves in a counter clockwise....

The winds are at their strongest coming in, so they are coming in over like they are north of it so those strong winds are coming over and hitting you really hard for extended periods and then if you are south of it they're coming back off the land and by then they are much weaker. And that's actually with Irene hit us head on and you get the head on wind is really bad too, but that is one major solid burst, after that you are getting southerly. I mean so you are getting this northerly when its coming up the coast, that's bad and then it hits you then the eye goes and then after that and that's what happened here the following winds were so much weaker. So again I was just worried about potentially by I told everyone I said I'm not worried about the water because we already had Irene and it would have to be 6 or 7 feet higher than that. Again, not knowing kinetic energy So ah it's not going to be higher than that. I was just worried about power. And I told everyone that. I said I really only worry about is losing the power. I take my father shopping at Costco every couple weeks or so and he was buying the stuff and he says, aren't you going to buy anything? I said no, because I may lose power for a couple of days and I don't want to have to

throw food away. I said I can always go after J, J didn't things would be so bad that evening, I had enough I got rice things like that, I have stuff, you know, J could have lived like a whole week and I didn't think things would be bad a week and in fact they weren't, and I figured I'd have enough to get by but nothing in the refrigerator. I didn't want too much in there so Anyway I was worried about losing power but [had no concept that there would be any other damage, I worried a little bit about wind damage, again this area gets a lot of wind anyway and gusts are nothing new so amhh so anyway, the day, on Sunday, everything was still fine and I couldn't tell what we would were going to be in for. They said it was a Frankenstorm and its' big and all that but, big doesn't. ... I mean big is big ya know, but you still don't know really what that impact is. And in fact, really what that meant is I could have gone anywhere and still had a horrible experience which is so true for many people. I also can tell like rain wise what was going to happen. Usually a lot of these storms, they pull in rain and they tend to dump the rain in land, ya know, and those places flood, so ahh, I really didn't know what to expect. So I decided my neighbors behind me I should explain, people... Because I live on sort of a tiny little Isthmus my driveway comes up here there is a house behind me you have the canal on one side a marsh on the other and behind them is just like a sort of a little island, then more canal and marsh. So we are off the land as it were. And, as you can see they have the driveway is an easement that's like that's my property but the driveway Otherwise they can't get out. They have to go through my property to get to the street. So my neighbor behind said she was staying, her and her family. And I thought ok well there are people next door I think I am going to stay too. So on Sunday I had to make up my mind quickly because they're going to have the ban on traffic. So I said ok I'll just decide to stay. And then next day, Monday comes around and again, for most of the day it was fine because, the winds start and whenever winds.... [know this place backwards and forwards, when winds come from the north, like a nor'easter whatever, usually when they are coming from the north it's fine it's pushing all the water out in fact sometimes in some years what they are worried about it's the water level is too low for the boats in there, pushes water out and usually it's the next day after the storm that you have to worry because water comes flowing back in and Irene actually did that but it was really at the tail end of Irene that the water level got its highest. It was like when Irene was just had gone over and passed it was the next day the water started to come back up. So that was how the day was starting. Then water was being pushed out and it was hardly even raining just the drizzling and then some wind and the wind was not that bad. I was even making jokes to people on the phone about it. Really there is nothing wrong here and someone called me and said we are going to come down for a barbecue as my friends often do. They were just joking and I said come on down, no problem. (laugh) So the day wore on and the wind did shift and it started to shift more from the east and south southeast and southeast is the worse, east is bad, south is bad and southeast is the worst and that's where things were bad because the storm seemed to just sit. That's another thing about hurricanes, normally.... That's why this is so different. Normally, hurricanes they will sit on the tropics, build up power, they move so slowly it seems like... And then when they hit the US they start to go north they pass Florida and also Carolina you can see exact warning. They just rushed up the coast, it is like they going through in less than a day. And this thing, you know, is just sitting out there dragging in and then the winds started to pick up and it

wasn't gusting wind it was strong wind. In fact the house wasn't shaking as it often does in storms but the wind was very strong and it just kept going on. Then somewhere around 4 o'clock maybe 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock we lost power. So okay that's nothing new for me. I can deal with that. So I just thought, you know, it was on the computer so I just figured, well, nothing I can do just go downstairs and read for a while. And then the day wore on and got darker so I started to light some candles and that week wasn't too cold yet or anything so I wasn't even worried about it. Comfort during the night gets down to like 50 or 60 in the house, not so bad. So anyway the day was going on and it was getting darker and the wind just wouldn't stop. That was the weird thing it was just constant, it wasn't boom, it was just this constant push that was worrying me because the water level was getting higher and higher and higher. So what I had remembered was the landfall was originally supposed to be at 2 but they moved it to 11 at night and this is only 6 or 7 and it's already bringing the water up. Then I said that is not what I expected. I didn't expect it to be that long and not expected it that early. So I started to get a little worried because [was looking constantly across the way and watched the water go over the other side. And I thought OK that matches Irene but this thing has not even made landfall yet. And I was waiting, waiting and my neighbor behind.... Was getting dark and somewhere about 9, I think, it's hard for me to remember exactly, I think it was around 9ish, plus there was no power on, I looked out and I noticed the water was coming over my bulkhead, just.

I didn't think I ever live to see that because that means it 3ft over what the hurricane brought last year. I was looking across the way at the house there and it was up to their door way and probably even flooding their house already. And I thought wow I've never seen this before. And then I coming on down here go to check the back and I saw lights go from my neighbor's house, a big, you know, SUV type car go right down. They have 2 cars.... And I thought that was one of them going and I thought did they leave? Would they go without telling me? NAH they wouldn't do because they are really nice people, they wouldn't do that, she probably would have called me. So I decided to give them a call to just let them know, first of all if they were there, that the water was over the bulkhead. So I called, her name is Sue. And I said Sue, just want you to know that I don't want you to panic or anything but from my area I can see better and the water is coming over the bulkhead and she said "I know, I know, it's actually in the backyard". We looked and was over the grass line and she said "I have never seen it come up on the grass before". And I said I know this is you know I am all worried because it's only 9 o'clock but I said who went with the car. And she said that "I was just about to call you. My son had 2 friends over and they saw the water come up onto the bulkhead and the driveway and they panicked and they just wanted to go home so I told them you know stay here but they did not want to listen and they took the car and they called us within a minute. They called us to tell us do not leave the house the road up ahead is so flooded with water the car stalled". This is an SUV, it was in water. So we're higher up, remember, and the road leading out though is lower. And they got stuck up to their waists and they actually got to a friend's house and they're staying there but they had to abandon the car right on the street. And I was like OK we're trapped! So she said "you think this is gonna get worse". I said well look I'm gonna make a few calls ... This is another thing I always keep one of those regular plug in the wall

home phones cause then you don't need power. I don't have a cell phone. As much as I have all this technology around me is because I have on star in the car. And I got. ... I don't technically need one. So I don't have one, I have my own regular phone. So everyone I called and said we lost power, they said we have to save our batteries, but I don't have that problem. So I told them I am going to make some calls but I am a little worried because I have never seen it come up the bulkhead. And I made the joke, not realizing that this would actually happen to people, I said the worst case is that we may get a few inches of water in our homes but it is not like is going to float away. And as you know there were homes that did! That was a shock to me but I thought what is the worst that can happen here... I said but really I am hoping that won't happen. So as I was sitting there of course now it is very dark and it's weird that is getting more quiet. The wind is not letting up but since it's not gusting wind, it's like this steady roar of wind which is not like shhhh, it's like just a noise, like a low roar.

So everything else is very, very quiet and I thought of calling some friends. Some didn't have power some did. And one of the ones I called used to work as my assistant back at AT&T and he was very good at getting me information when I needed it so I told him how is it? He said "we got internet, power, got everything". I said really, I said could you do me a favor? Could you find wind speeds for Brick Town? I want to know every hour every 2 hours, whatever they got. I want to know what it's going to be and the direction until you see the wind speed getting down to about 40 miles 35-40 miles per hour because I know from experience that the highest amount of water whenever the wind blows gets lower than that keeps the water up here and push back into the ocean. So considering how much water is here it could be even 50 and it won't have that strength. So I said could you find out. So he said sure and about 10 -20 minutes later he calls me back and gave me read out that had every 2 hours. And way it looked was up until about 3-4 period it would drop to 50 but the wind would not drop or change direction until about 5:30 which is fine because to get to 50 that would be good because the water was now hitting the house on the side which is a little lower over there and was probably about 2 feet from getting to the garage this is about 10-11 o'clock. And I am thinking, if this is going to go on, it's still 70-75 mph, and if this is going to go on My mind is still calculating. I remember saying to him on the phone I get this weird feeling it is calling it very close. If it doesn't drop at around 3-3:30, 3 o'clock, I am probably going to get water in the house. But knowing that by 5 o'clock, according to this projection, it would be lower I knew that I wouldn't get too much. I was just worried about the floors and everything but I was still concerned. So at around 11-12 o'clock.... I don't want to call people, people dealing with their own stuff. If they didn't have a problem they are probably going to sleep, so I just didn't bother for a while. So I just kept checking the water and when I looked out the front about 2 o'clock in morning it was a little frightening in that the fence of the neighbor in front of me, his fence was down. And the water for some reason there was coming off the marsh to the canal at a steady stream. I don't know why it wasn't quite like that in the back but over here maybe because it was narrower it was a little torrent going through of water and I guess it was somewhere else it had found a little basin that all the water was rushing towards some blocks away in Shore Acres, I don't know. But it was going through at an amazing clip and I thought this is pretty strong.

I was actually starting to get a little worried. Worried would be the word I wasn't getting brave, worried would be the word that I had. I was concerned I could get some damage here. I still wasn't worried about something like damage to me, you know, because, again, we are now at the high point and it's getting close. Then came the worst part I think. At around close to 3, I opened the door to the garage and there was water in the garage, a lot of water, like 3-4 inches, to me that's a lot. I realize okay I could get significant damage in this house and I love this place and I started to feel more depressed and scared. And I said you know what you have to do I went and got my feet soaked because I went in there to shut the main circuit breaker off cause I thought if water is going to get in here it may get into the plugs, the outlets, you know. From what I can remember you have to shut all that stuff off. So I shut that off and put towels by the doors and I just resigned myself that it is going to be a close call. If those winds would stop I just kept saying over and over again "if those winds would just stop ". There was no rain; I mean if there was a quarter to a half inch of rain total, I would have been shocked. Most of the water was water that flowing in or being blown by the wind off the water so really I didn't know what.... I just so went upstairs and I look out to the east which is towards Mantoloking and it is quite a distance actually to see that row of houses on the other side of the marsh here beyond them is an even bigger marsh and part of the bay and that is the barrier islands OK. So you can't make out homes there, although in one direction you see some Ferris wheel structure. but you can't make out homes there, but I know it was that direction. There was this orange glow in the distance and I didn't know what that was. I thought that was it was a power line or something. The weird thing was looking at the houses at the other side of the marsh, there was like these billowing white curtains I thought was rain. You know rain goes like a curtain (demonstrates). It was billowing and it was just filling the whole marsh and was coming by my property too. I thought wait a minute I don't hear rain. So I go back downstairs and I open the door here and it's like... I could see these white sheets going by. It was very dark but you could still see and open the door and smoke came billowing into my home. And that is when I realized what the orange glow was. Then I realized how far it was. I said that has got to be more than one home and as it turns out 10 or 11 homes were burning there. I closed the door and went back upstairs into and look.... My bedroom is that way which faces the west side and the west side of the house is a canal right there. So I was looking at the woman across the way and it was about 7-8ft on her house. I was pretty sure she was not there it seemed so quiet there. There was no movement, so I tried to look at the other houses too and I just felt so bad for her.

Awful, you know. Her whole house must be full of water right now, the bottom level. So I sat there in a chair that is right by the window and I was looking west and that was an eerie moment because it was so weird that it was quiet because no other noise. I could see these different glows like a bluish ball glow just over the next block or so. I would just grow and shrink and grow and shrink. Lightning hitting the same spot and maybe being ripped around.... And then sadly enough there was another orange glow and there were more houses going up which made me feel awful (getting choked up now). On a whim I went downstairs and picked up the phone and it was dead just nothing. Not a click, nothing, there was no power to the phone. And this is the weird thing I has spent a good portion of my life living alone, which I kinda enjoy or I wouldn't. It was the first

time in my life, ever, I felt alone. Because I realized I was physically and electronically, every sense of the word, cut off from the entire world. Anything that would happen.... I could not get to the neighbor's house because the water was rushing by. It never got in my door but that's a good 3-4 feet of water, well 3 feet of water, because my steps go down here. I don't know if could have gone across, I might have, but it was rushing through. So I couldn't get to them, I couldn't get to anyone. This is the first time in my life I was really alone. It was disturbing! I went up there (points to upstairs area). I was just sitting there and for that last half hour from 3 to 3:30 just watching these glows, like war of the worlds, whatever. That feeling, that you're cut off and watching destruction from a distance, it was just awful, awful feeling. It's weird, there are not even words to describe it, you are watching and you are witnessing destruction in some way. I'm watching homes being flooded and seeing the glow of what I know are power cables and I see fires in the distance. So I just said I don't know what is going to happen but I think I might want to go to sleep regardless. I couldn't but I didn't have anything else to do but just the same I went downstairs to check the garage and it 3:30. And I remember thinking the winds going to get down to 50 and I hope when I opened the door and sure enough there was no water in garage. So I thought OK the worst is over. water is leaving and it may not leave for quite a while because those winds are going to stay until the next day. But I don't have to worry about my property. I still have to worry about everybody else. I don't know my father was. He is nearby and I don't think he would have flooding but there are other things that can go wrong and I am sure he is without power. I have friends living here, my cousin in Howell, etc. So I was worried about them but there is nothing I can do right now. I'm still cut off from the world and I went to sleep for about like an hour or two. Then I woke up and carne down and I checked the phone and the phone was working. The water had pulled a little away, it was.... For that point, up until 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock the next day, it was about 8.8 yards from my front door but my driveway looks very flat and straight but it really slopes down.... And the next day when we came out, the neighbor behind me, we talked to each other and we were happy we survived. Partially ecstatic, but knowing that the damage that might have been done, I was upset. It was a mixed feeling, you know, with people saying you survived something and others don't. I don't want to say guilt but you do want to feel good because T survived. You just look out there and he tried to walk in his driveway and it was up to his knees. So we know we couldn't get a car out so we are trapped here for pretty much the whole day. Plus it was worse in the streets following where people were trying to get out there people trying to get the vehicles out. I knew I couldn't get to my dad so I just had to hope he was OK. This is another day I am going to have to go through and Monday was like an empty experience for me or Tuesday or whatever it was, I guess it was Tuesday. It was an empty experience because most of the day I was just here waiting for the water to get low enough so I could get to the side of the house where the crawlspace is and check that. That took a little time. I was on an island. Me and my neighbor, we were on an island.

We could talk to the neighbor in the front there through his yard but there was water there so it was really kind of weird. And there was not much I could do that day. An my father called me early the next day and said he was fine he has power, he was upset that he did not have the internet, and I'm thinking I don't have power still and your worried about the internet. So the next day was mostly people going out but they had restrictions. You couldn't travel because they had power lines down and also other stuff. So I am thinking I am not going to be able to go out again and it was getting colder and it was now just two or three days without power. And that's when thing just start to go bad because later that night, like every night, this is inevitably every night there were the glows of fire in different places and smells of smoke and it was still disturbing that I had no contact with the outside world and no idea what was damaged. I did get through to some people on the phone who did get power. Most people with cell phones, we charge them. The worst part was on that second or third day, my neighbor, I went to talk to her and she had charged up her phone with the car or something, and she is on the phone because she is very worried about her uncle who lived in Cherry Quay, which is right up the road here a little bit away on Drum Point (Rd.). And I know that area does get flooded. She is very worried about her uncle who lives in a one story house and she couldn't get through to him on the phone so she called the police and the police were on the phone and she said just go there and police said can we have permission to break down the door. She said "of course you can break down the door, what other reasons would he have to not answer then if he was in trouble". (Getting choked up) It was a little later she had to come here to use my phone and that's when they told her that her Uncle was dead. He couldn't get out of the house the water had gone over the roof. She broke down it was so upsetting. It felt like we're good but people have died and people we know. It was just awful being cut off like that. Finally these days just went by and then the looting started there was one night I was going to sleep.... I was on edge because you heard all kinds of rumors. I heard the National Guard was here. People are looting. What are they looting? I mean from what I heard areas were being restored and everything. I'm thinking, you know, it's not like we are having a whole loss of a systems here. And what happened was on Friday, Friday there were two guys that came up here with wetsuits and jet skis, very fancy jet skis, things you see here all the time. They had wet suits on and they were about 20 and they were going up and down and I thought they were gawkers. We have a guy around the block he is an ex-policeman and first thing he did the next day was go out on his jet ski and he never asked one person or me if we are okay. Some people are like that, they like to go gawk. That's what I thought they were doing but I was talking to my neighbor here, the one front of me, and he said "how many times are these guys going up and down here"? I said I thought I saw them go up twice and so we are off to the side there and they are a little out of our view often sight and I walk up and one of them gets off the jet ski and goes to the woman's house that had flooded and is at the back door and I thought that maybe they know her. So I said I gotta go in but I don't trust them, I don't trust them, I am going to keep my eye on them. And he told me that had to call the cops because they didn't just go to that door, the guy went to the next house and went to that back door. So these are people that have money are checking to see which houses are abandoned to break into them, and I guess for whatever ,prescription drugs, and things they can sell but these are not poor people that you see the news breaking windows. These are people

with money. And then I'll jump a little bit ahead, I think it was Friday or Saturday, the roads were clear enough there, although they had checkpoints. I knew there was looting going on, whatever, so they had check points but I could get out and I got to my Father's side of the area. By the way you had internet by then. We went to Costco and it is like nothing happened. Tons of food there, water, everything, people just shopping nonnally. I got a bunch of chickens for my neighbor back here and it was gosh food and everything! Then I realized that you can come there every day, you don't have to stockpile. I did buy a bunch of stuff like batteries and whatever. I came back here and gave them the food and everything. so happy. I said that everything is normal in that part of Brick. We are still in the dark here and we have check points. I don't get what is going on here. Then the next day I went to Home Depot to buy stuff because my mailbox got smashed up a little bit. There was guy behind me in line and he said your mailbox got smashed and he said you should see my home and he lives in Shore Acres. I gotta back up, the night before, Friday night, I heard what I thought was fireworks and I thought people were probably celebrating they got power back and I was getting annoyed it's been 4-5 days of no power. So the guy behind me we are talking back and forth and I said by the way you're in Shore Acres and I said the other night He said, "Yes the gun shots", I said they were gun shots! He said "oh yeah you can't believe what is going on there!" Now, remember there were lines for gas but we had gas. Costco, the biggest line there was for gas, easier to get in the store. Gas was there, but since so many gas stations were out of power, there was a limit of gas stations not gas. At least down here all the stations had gas. But you had to wait 45 minutes. He said people were running generators. What happened is people on boats, some who said that boat 2 story were coming in and checking where people have generators in the day and then landing at night. People on jet skis and people on boats and stealing the gas. I said this is sick! I felt like there is no gas and it not like these are poor people. J told this guy J didn't even know, I used to say when I was younger if you push a persons to an extreme you'll find out what he is. If you give people the slightest push you'll find out what they are. It was disgusting to me. It really was. By the same token I was scared because now I realize I don't want my house to seem abandoned or empty or somebody will break in. And I may be here which is pretty bad. I was afraid to leave the home by the same token. Now the story will be short as there is monotony in this. What happened was.... that preface, everything about the say when it comes to places like the government, JCPL I have no facts on because I have to go on what people would tell me or I did experience one incident myself. There were rumors that they were going to tum off our gas and water that never happened. That the water was contaminated that was not true. There were all these rumors and stuff. What happened was as the days went by I was afraid it was getting colder. Each day was getting color, each day it was getting harder to live here and J kept saying to myself, we don't have any damages here why don't we have power? My father's got power, my father's got internet. There were areas J saw that have more damage than we did. I said why don't we have power? I think it was like the day before the storm nor'easter my neighbor was out she is watching the guys work on a pole right around the corner where all the utility people parking their trucks and stuff. JCPL, New Jersey natural gas all these companies, Verizon, whatever those in the parking area as their local point for this stuff. So she saw people working on the pole and said are you guys working on the power? "No, I am Verizon's, he's Comcast and we

are just restoring that". She said " we don't have power". He said" you should there is power in these lines, Power has been back since Thursday". So she comes back to me and tells me and I said I can't believe it we could have had power since Thursday! What's going on here! Then I get the call and this got me angry, this call from the town emergency system said that the nor'easter was coming in and since I live in an area which is prone to frequent flooding WHAT, It's never flooded here. If you want to count the 4 inches in the garage go right ahead. I still wouldn't call it prone to frequent flooding. By the way, my house is something like 10 or 12 ft. above sea level so that storm raise water 8 -9 feet above our bigger storms. You got to realize this is once in a lifetime (let's hope) once in a lifetime event. So I wouldn't say this is frequent flooding. So I was annoyed by that and they said you have a mandatory evacuation. Work was out the whole first week they had no power in Princeton but they were on the 2nd week so I went back to work on Monday driving in and driving home. And I come home at night dark and cold. But I said they have the mandatory evacuation I told my neighbor could you believe that they say we are in an area of frequent flooding and we all have to evacuate for a nor'easter. And she said that they are saying this because expecting high winds. I said all I keep hearing is 50 mph winds but I keep checking at work and the highest wind they are predicting are 28 mph, where is the 50 coming from? So I was angry because I did not want to evacuate and wouldn't have if I had power here, I would work from home. But the problem is I had to go to work and if they evacuated an area they will often not let you back in. So I said what I have to do is bring an overnight with me for the nor'easter, which I don't want to leave because I know this is one of the safest places to be. We will not have flooding and if we have high winds, which I doubt, we have been through worse I mean come on 50 is even nothing. So there are no trees around my house. So I was annoyed at having to go and I did not want to. My cousin is in Howell, so I figured I go to work They wanted me to evacuate 6 o'clock the night before I said screw that. The storm is not even going to be here until 4 o'clock the next day and it's just a nor'easter. It was over compensating. They didn't evacuate people so AHHH I HAVE TO EVACUATE EVERYBODY!

If they think I am going to evacuate every time it rains they are sadly mistaken. You know it will be a break my cousin has heat, she has power and everything. It will be nice to spend the day over there. Well maybe even spend more but I was afraid to leave the house alone. I did not want to leave the house unoccupied because there were still problems down here. But I said one night should not be bad. So I left for work and left work and went to Howell instead to my cousin's house. And the storm has 0 wind and cause there is no wind 0 water increase here. When I got here there was about 3-4 inches of snow. When I got to Howell there was 12-14 inches of snow that buried my car out there AND got in all their power lines and broke their power lines and we were without power from 6 o'clock on AND my cousin has a well so he didn't have power from his pump to well so we couldn't use the bathroom or anything. I was worse off if anything. The next morning I got stuck in a snow drift area where plows had gone through and cars behind me. I had to dig myself out with bare hands and I am cursing. if they had left me alone I would have been happier here I would have been better off. So I had to leave my cousins because she did not have power and come back here and I did. That is when things got really bad because it got really

cold for the next 2 weeks. The temperature in the house was I wasn't here during the day I was at work, but I would come home at 5... My boss was letting me out early because this whole thing was having an effect on me, a very bad effect because.... What I am trying to say is every day I sat here at night. It wasn't just having absolutely nothing to do for hours.... Because, of course, the other coincidence is hurricane or not, daylight savings time appears so it gets darker earlier and extra hour to sit in the dark. So I am sitting here at night I have little bit of wood for the fire. I tried to measure it out. It is not really heating a lot. I have an open floor plan here, a big open area, so I pulled the couch and turned the couch in front of there (points to fireplace) and I get some heat but I have to portion it off to there is just so much wood I got. By the way, my cousin, he came by with it. ... I did want to be careful with it and there wasn't a lot I could do. I was watching a candle.... When I came home at night it was pitch black. Fortunately I have pots, 2 pots that are glass that you can cook on the stove so I could actually see. I would buy soup from whole foods and a sandwich. This way you could put the soup in and see it cooking. And for me, the big event of the night was making a cup of tea, something to do. All that, it is kind of humorous because you have nothing to do. That wasn't what was getting to me. All the while I had nothing to do, the logic of my mind could not escape the simple fact over and over, and I could have had power according to what I knew. Days and days, a week before I could have had it for a whole week and there is no reason for me not to have power. And that is what slowly started to drive me crazy. I would be sitting here bundled up, layers of clothes, freezing, 40 degrees not exactly freezing but close. Trying to keep warm, trying to have things to do. I just keep thinking it doesn't have to be like this. There is no reason for it to be like this. I could not shut my mind up. I would go to work and I would be a wreck. I was flashing between depression and obsession. And my neighbor was the same way, especially his wife, the 2 of us. Finally the Friday after the nor'easter I went to see her. I decided.... My boss told me Thursday he said I don't know what to do with you, you are a wreck. I would love to say just go home take days off but that is not where you should be. I don't want to say stay here and work. I want to do something good for you but I don't know what to do. I said don't worry I going to go home I am not going to work because I need some daylight. I got to straighten the house. I need something normal even though it is cold. I said it is supposed to be sunny; the house does heat up a little bit with the sun. Let me just have Friday as a day. He said take it. I woke up and I saw my neighbor in the morning and I went to see her and they had gotten a generator the day before they borrowed from somebody they knew who got their power back. So she said generator or not she cooked me a warmed up bagel, it was wonderful, like some normalcy. She said " I've had it I'm telling you right now I'm getting on that phone and I am not going to get off the phone until I have answers why we don't have power". I mean there are areas that are devastated and have power back and nobody is giving us power. So she did. She called the township and the township told her. ... The first person told her you will have to contact PSEG. That was upsetting because we are not served by PSEG so the town doesn't even know what the hell power company is serving their town! So she started calling other departments in the town and she got this one woman (I should try to find out where she is and buy her something). Her name was Lisa Rose. Lisa Rose, God bless you wherever you are. She heard the whole ranting story. I messed up; I forgot to say my neighbor did manage to get to JCPL, who told her they

cannot put power on because they are waiting for approvals from FEMA and the township.

My neighbor called FEMA and FEMA said what are they talking about? We do structural assessments but we have nothing to do with power. Maybe they meant the township. So she gets to the township and get run around ... So finally she gets to Lisa Rose who said let me tell you something, I don't know where your area is I don't know where Sea Meadows is She tried to explain to her but she said I not going to let this go this sounds awful you people have been without power. I am going to call JCPL. I am going to talk to the mayor's office. She (Lisa Rose) works in the department of standards or something for inspections. She made all the calls and called my neighbor back and said from what I can understand I have been getting the run around like you don ' t know but JCPL is insisting that they will not turn power on until all the homes have been inspected because they say it is a fire hazard. But my neighbor said, what I have been saying all along, we did not have any damage. They don' t even need to inspect we didn't get any damage. Well that's what they keep saying you are in an area that was flooded and your meters are damaged. But they weren't t. So I (Lisa Rose) went to the mayor office and the mayor's office will be calling you and what I suggest you do this, get everyone in the neighborhood that has not been affected by the storm to call and leave message so we know who they are and their addresses and so we all did that.

God bless my neighbor too because she I credit with getting us power, she and this other woman. So the mayor's office called us and he said, some liaison, told me, personally, this is Saturday, the mayor has called JCPL and told them to turn our power on we want you to know that the mayor has told JCPL to tum your power on. However I don' t want to get your hopes up because the mayor has no power to get JCPL to listen. They have to do that on their own so it made the news then because that Monday the mayor went onto the radio stations. Here's a little back story, I cannot say this is truth but this is what my neighbor found going out talking to everyone she could. They started having people meet at the park. Apparently Brick, to save money in cost cutting, decided their electrical inspectors were no longer needed because they're going to do joint electrical inspection by renting or using the Toms River electrical inspectors. Now JCPL was insisting that every single meter has to be inspected or ripped out and replaced. And meanwhile I'm doing calls and I'm getting is your area is being red tagged and right now we are busy working on the barrier islands and when we are done with that we have to go back and reinstall all your meters and we should probably be getting to that mid-December.

WHAT? But I can't give you exact dates. So I am freaking out. She (neighbor) finds out the Toms River electrical inspectors because now its Monday ... with media hype I could not get to my house. It took me 45 minutes to go 2 blocks because I kept getting redirected by police because they had media here. Apparently JCPL said if you (town) do the inspection and get inspected we will tum the power on. Apparently we couldn't get inspectors because Toms River electrical people said it's a holiday, it's Veterans Day. And I'm thinking you know I know some school close, I know there is no postal delivery but we usually have garbage pickup on Veterans Day. Even alternate street parking is lifted. You know what is more irritating; I can guarantee you there

are veterans in these homes. Is that a way to respect the veterans, it's my day off, screw you sit in the cold. It was just freaking me out and I was mentally unhinged. I literally go between anger and literally break down and cry. I couldn't take the cold and couldn't take the fact that I was being tortured, punished by people. I am fine, the neighborhood is fine, and we are being punished that is what it felt like. I kept thinking people should go to jail for this. No but if they go to jail. They'd have light and they'd have heat and I WOULDN'T! So I was just going a little over the top crazy. I was not in a good state of mind. And there was a time I was a little incoherent. So it just got colder and the process went on longer and we were hearing more and more stories like they still kept saying rip out rip out the meters.

So finally I came home and I can relate to you this, there was a JCPL truck on the road there was a JCPL guy sitting right there and I drove past him and [said I can't do this [got to turn around. I turned around and drove up to him and said look I know you know what I am going to ask you but I want to ask you why we don't have power. Will we ever get power? I know you might not be the person to ask but right behind me this neighborhood we didn't have any damage whatsoever except wind damage [like my roof had a little damage but the water never went above a few inches in the garage. He said your area was red tagged and you have to understand it's a safety issue because your meters were underwater your houses could catch fire. I said NO. NO you didn't hear me. I was trying not to get angry. The water was 4 inches. Turn around and look at my house the meter is about 4-5 ft. high. 4 inches of water, 5 ft. meter. It wasn't in the water. He said I understand what you are saying but you have to realize that these meters have to be ripped out. Your area is red tagged as being flooded and meters when they get underwater. ... I, I, I look please just get someone to come here and look at my house and the next house.

OK I think that was a Tuesday and the next day I went to work and supposedly we had state inspectors here. And I'm driving to work and trying different channels and WOBN because I am trying to get weather whatever and I hear the person saying What we are telling people is to stay in their homes today because inspectors are going around from the state, make sure you're there, make sure you open the doors to let them in. I'M ON MY WAY TO WORK! HOW AM I..? I have a phone that works, nobody called me. So I called my neighbor when I got to work and I tell her and she said don't worry the inspectors were here and she said the one guy came up to my house first and she said he said explain to me where the water was and I showed him and he looked at me and said of course this passes. Please make sure that my neighbor passes too. Do you need to get in the house? He said lady we don't need to look at anything but this, this passes, there is no problem here.

Finally to hear someone say that. And at that point we were out for about 3 weeks and that was Wednesday. She called JCPL and said the inspectors have been here, the media has been here. First of all, by the way, JCPL had been hanging up on her. So she finally got somebody who didn't hang up on her, which just goes to show you how horrible people can be. I mean don't they understand that the reason she is calling is that she is physically suffering, that we are physically suffering. You know what it is like to live without heat in the cold for that amount of time,

knowing there is nothing wrong, it's not just that. People have it worse, people live in these environments but people don't live there knowing there is no reason for it. It eats away at you. There is no reason for us to be excluded. So anyway they tell her this and I'm not making this up either, they said she got a liaison between JCPL or the mayor's office and they said we have gotten confirmation that your area has been approved and is OK for power, however, I want to emphasize this I have no idea if this is going to affect your area. JCPL is now telling us that areas that already got power were never inspected. So what they want us to do is go out and re-inspect all those things before we make any further progress. Now whether that means that they are going to wait to restore power to your homes or not is what we need to find out. I will tell you this I don't want to discourage you the process could take us 2 to 3 weeks of re-inspecting. And when I heard that I thought we been approved and I can have power but we still have to wait 2 or 3 weeks because of others.

That just blew my mind. One of my cousin here at Thanksgiving was explaining to me the reason why we were being screwed over ... And I want to point something else out, just so you know this development the house here and across the way we have our power under the ground we are the only area in Brick that is like that. The power out there I could show you there is the pole (points to the pole outside) the power cable goes down and then the pole goes onto the older areas. So we are an end point unto ourselves. We don't have other people relying after us we don't have people connected. It's a little matter of turning that switch on that pole or whatever it is to turn it on. It's all it's ever been. And what my cousin was saying the reason why --so how many homes are affected, about 20, 24? She said that's why. Because they are too busy they can say we got 300 homes fixed with that, we got 500 homes fixed with that. Like I was brought up in situations of emergency you have something called triage. You treat everything that is easy to treat first get it out of the way and you work your way down to the most serious cases. That's not how JCPL does it; they do it by the numbers that are going to make them look good. So even if it is more work, you got 5 telephone poles down that service 500 people and you got a little switch that needs to be turned for 24, work on the 5 so then you can say look we went from 70 to 75%.

24 homes aren't going to be a big deal, screw them basically. I don't know if that is true but that is what my cousin told me. It seems like it because that is what they keep reporting--How many homes that had every day. This was a switch and turn it on that's all it needed. So that Friday power did come on. Just as I was starting to make a whole bunch of different arrangements. I was just about to cancel Thanksgiving. [got a call that you could lend a generator. I also went out and bought a sleeping bag that could go to 0 degree weather. Because if we are going to go to mid-December I was worried about my pipes and stuff so I could live here a little bit longer. I also arranged for Thanksgiving week a friend of mine was going away, he and his wife were going away and his apartment was going to be completely empty.

For that whole week I was going to live there cable, everything, whatever and I was making all these arrangements and the power came on. So again the whole thing I don't know if anyone ever understands. I can't tell you because I do get choked up. Because as you understand I do know

what other people are going through still and what people have gone through. But I keep telling people if my wall was down if water had been in this house, if any of these happened my brain could deal with it. I would say a tragedy happened, a disaster happened, it damaged my home, my home is not damaged I can't get power. But every day I sat here expecting it to go on in 5 minutes because it could. If I knew what to do I would have done it myself. That was the hurt. I am not a survivor of the storm I am observer of the storm. I was nothing to survive. What I am a survivor of is human indifference, human negligence, and human incompetence and that is the way they torture people.

They put them in circumstances psychological frustrating, put you in a box, put you in a hole, and you feel frustrated you can't get out. There is little reason for this. There is no reason for you to be treated the way you are. That is what they did to us. And it is really funny all the inspectors come here go through life, inspectors and they say you can have this. That's small potatoes. They say you have to re do the roof. Fine it's only a few shingles but I understand if it is compromised. I'm not looking for that. I'm not that kind of person. I'm not looking for the cha-ching. Yeah I don't want that but I do want something from JCPL. I suffered for those days and I didn't have to. I actually could put a dollar; I want \$1000 a day (sarcastic). I don't want money for anything I haven't earned. That was torture what I went through, just sitting here night after night. It was awful, just knowing I could have power. I would drive past places I know had 3 ft. of water and they all had their lights on. The stores are all doing business and you get to this last quarter Darkness (clap hands together). Wow that was it, that's my story.

DO: Well thank you

RP: It was a little long, I'm sorry

DO: No, No I'm glad you brought up that point about NOAA and their predictions. What we learned now is exactly what you said we get small bits of information, and we don't know what that means but its' got to be bad if its' got an amber color on it, or a red color, we are out of here. I am glad you brought that up.

RP: Right, but that to me is, the problem is we do is we distill everything down to one piece of data that were going to label 3 or 4 different ways. So people are like, that I think is a problem it's like saying something is like to say it's dangerous but now I'm going to give up, dangerous with this number and this color and this wording and this phrase and this label, it's still the I point of data. What people should be doing is giving us multiple points of data and I know that's not what people say they want, but that's what people need. You got to tell people it isn't just that the wind speed is this, its' going to be sitting over your property for this long, we expect it to be doing it like I want a timer I want to know directions and I want to also like this thing about kinetic energy I don't if they mentioned that before, during or after but, that's a, that's a valuable piece of information (Sure, sure). But, do you know what it would mean to the average person here, well this had a kinetic energy on the scale it was 5.8 on a scale of 6, They are going to go, OUH. .. its' the scientist. I mean that's what the problem of the country is, is nobody wants, when they hear

things like that, they will tune themselves out and ridicule it rather than say explain what that means to me (Exactly) I want to learn ...

DO: It will take a few more words to say, what that means to you

RP; says again "I want to learn" at the same time. Then concurs with DO and says Right.

DO: So you could always ask so what? What does that mean to me? This is what that means ... I can get outta dodge.

RP: Yeah, That is exactly it, Right. And that's the problem and ultimately, I felt bad for all the government services, and stuff like that who they go out and say, " here's what we're going to do, we're going to tell people to come up with a scale, like an earthquake scale, whatever and this is it and then people will say (sarcastically) Well I don't understand that... Ok you know what we'll do, like with terror alerts thing, we' re going to put colors on it if colors aren't good enough, Amber!!!, what does Amber mean?!!! (Laughter) so you have to keep it dumber and dumber for one point of data, (DO: Right). The trouble is, what people need the reverse, they need multiple points of data that they don't want, they don't want to learn and that' s what it is. That puts us in the situations that we have, you know. And that says it, I'm not sure that I would have done anything differently, but to be honest, I didn't need to. I was fine ... (Laughter).

My judgment and assessment I ended up being correct. The water did get in but it was only in a few inches. The wind speed was everything for me in fact people talked about the tides, I can tell, ignore, this area is not affected by tides, hardly ever. It makes a difference of a few inches and it could have made a little difference here but, I say, what you need is wind speed and direction for here. Other areas are different, ya know like for instance, if you know this thing is not driving any rain, the rains not being pulled over like, then maybe you don't have to issue warnings for people who are flooding in state. But when it is one of those storms, You do, you know, and but they don' t. .. they just say it's a category 4 hurricane (DO: "And they'll lump everybody into it") which means, everybody that means wind speeds, and that's all you're gonna get. And, you know, you can probably finish here, but the day of, I didn't mention this, but the day of the storm, I saw something on TV, and I did call for answers, this is when I still had power and everything and this is my pet peeve, every single time there is a storm, a big storm, a hurricane especially, what do you see? You see the weatherman reporting from the BEACH!! Where, the weather is at its worst. So its visually compelling (Sounding like the weatherman) I' m here at the beach and the winds are at ... great so I know not to go to the beach. (Sarcastically) Can you please tell me information that is pertinent to the people in the towns, in areas, in houses, not sitting on the beach? In a hurricane, they're always right there, right at the water's edge, where they know it's going to be worse because it makes for good TV. But you know what, I'm not tuning in to you for good TV right now, I can do that by watching HBO or something. What I need is information, and we're getting so far away from that, we' re getting so horribly far away from that, that its' all entertainment, and it's all dumbing down and there's nothing of information and people, sadly, don't want it. You know, they should be more like me. They should say, you know what? This is

the stupidest thing I've ever seen. I'm not going to watch something tonight because it's not providing me with any ... Of course, it's windy and wet and there are big waves at the shore,

DO: That's the point

RP: Like I never would have known. How often have you seen that? Really? And of what real value is that? That's the problem, and it's not going to change, it's not going to get better. I know what I sound like, J sound just like the people of 20-30 years ago. Used to Talk about TV being garbage medium ... Ernie Kovacs? "Television is a medium. Its' called that because, its' neither well done nor rare. (Laughter between both at the corny joke) I know that but its' more than that it's what I'm talking about, it's just the way we as people as adults, treat ourselves when it comes to trying to learn new things and being informed. We want it given to us simply and I'm sorry that that's not going to save your life. You know, that's not going to make a difference in your life. It's just going to give you a broad generalization and give you something to complain about later (sarcastically) "They never said this" you know. You know what? Be an adult. Keep learning, that's what you got a brain for. So that's it, that's my preachy part.

DO: Thank You, thank you so much and I can sign off at this point.

(Laughter between both)

RP: You probably could have signed off a while back,.

DO: We hope that this does not happen again to anybody ...

RP: Well you know, hurricanes will happen, and this damage will happen and devastation, it's part of life and by the way, you know as well as I do, no matter where you live there' s always some kind of risk (DO: "That is true"). And that's tile point, I think you have to learn to assess your risks and take responsibility for them. I mean, God forbid if something had happened to me, that's my fault. Nobody else should ever be blamed nobody should be made to pay for that, though you know at the same time, you feel, you still feel bad for people and I do, who say, didn't heed a warning and got killed, like someone stayed on the barrier islands, my heart goes that was my way home every day, and I know every single house along there it's just horrible to see. And the thing is I feel bad for them, I'm not inhuman but, on the same token this is the flip side, its' you be responsible for your decisions, learn what you can, make the decision then you have to live with that responsibility. But, Fortunately, we live in community and we can help each other out before people make the wrong decisions that's all I'm thinking, were all human, so, we make mistakes, so that's it. This can go on forever. (Laughter between both again)

DO: Thank You sir.