

## Hurricane Sandy and Other Going Ons - 11.13.12

I write this update to you from my now-powered home. Like some of you, I was out of power for 10 days, feeling a little bit out of sorts. I will say, however, the kindness of friends was amazing as we all hung in there together and everyone was wonderful about sharing their home with my family.

A few notes and observations from the storm:

1. 8 hrs post losing power, the phone service to my home was gone. I had just signed up for a new package w Fios that provided digital service to my home for Phone, Internet and TV. With that went the precious land line that I missed during the storm.
2. Homes w FIOS and generators hooked up to their phone/internet service (as far as I know- correct me if I'm wrong) didn't skip a beat in service.
3. Homes w Cable Vision, once their power was back on, had, and some continue to have, difficulty with their internet and TV (not sure about phone). This was across the board with people I have been speaking with. Cablevision did not recover as well as FIOS from the storm in our area.
4. Verizon vs AT&T data plans on phones - I had both - 4G LTE, Verizon on my iPhone; AT&T on my iPad. Service on my Verizon was excellent during the storm. Even my cell service was great (can't comment on AT&T cell service as I don't have a phone w AT&T). The first week of the storm, I couldn't access any data on my AT&T data plan on my iPad.
5. For Cable Vision subscribers - I highly recommend the Optimum WIFI when you are in one of their zones. There are over 50,000 sites and whenever I came upon one, it was fast and easy. Here is a link, <http://www.optimum.net/WiFi/Find>, to see the map of their hot spots. I had great wifi near my kids elementary school and drove over there when I was desperate (FYI - I have FIOS in Scarsdale and Optimum at our house in Remsenburg). To find out how to log in from your devices, here is information from Optimum: [http://wifiservices.airtk.optimum.com/home-internet-service/wifi-service.jsp?teng=go&geng=just\\_optimum\\_wifi\\_exact&aeng=1&s\\_cid=wifi](http://wifiservices.airtk.optimum.com/home-internet-service/wifi-service.jsp?teng=go&geng=just_optimum_wifi_exact&aeng=1&s_cid=wifi)
6. WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE STORM:
  - A. Back up All of your computers, etc...
  - B. Before a major storm, unplug all computers, hard drives, printers, etc... You can replug them in once you have weathered the storm and your power is stable, but a jolt to any of these devices, EVEN with a surge protector, can fry any of these. In the past, one of my routers was fried during a storm and someone's printer was fried during this most recent storm. Not sure how this works with a generator, but I think you would do the same as it is a jolt and a shift in where you are accessing your power.

C. Charge Everything ahead of time. Here is an article I saw from one of the tech magazines on his recommendations, [http://www.techhive.com/article/2013234/hurricane-sandy-tips-how-to-keep-cellphones-powered-up.html#tk.nl\\_mwdaily](http://www.techhive.com/article/2013234/hurricane-sandy-tips-how-to-keep-cellphones-powered-up.html#tk.nl_mwdaily)

D. Optimum published this right before the storm so I'm including the link for future reference, <http://optimum.net/stormpreparedness>. I found it helpful.

On to other more exciting things:

Apple has introduced a great array of new products recently. I was lucky enough to obtain an iPhone 5 on September 21st and I love it. It is fast, thin and much lighter than my older iPhone. I am usually not an early adopter of new technology as I usually wait and see but I fell in love with it and have not looked back once. The only glitch, in my opinion, is the Apple MAPS which is far superior to Google Maps. You can access the google maps by obtaining it in your search engine and then adding it to your home screen, BUT Find my iPhone will always use the default map, which is now Apple Maps and it is lacking.

Apple also has the new iPad and iPad Mini. I have not gotten my hands on one yet, but the reviews have been great. Here's a link to a review for the iPad Mini, <http://www.macworld.com/article/2013515/review-ipad-mini-gives-you-most-of-an-ipad-at-half-the-size.html>. And here's a link to a review for the new iPad, <http://www.macworld.com/article/2013582/review-fourth-generation-ipad-is-faster-stronger-better.html>.