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Mantoloking Home Survives Sandy

On October 29, 2012, Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, NJ. For Ed Wright, a resident in Mantoloking, NJ, the storm brought gusts up to 80 miles per hour and created a surge that temporarily made his home its own island at the end of the Mantoloking Bridge.

“A friend of mine called me the morning after Sandy hit,” Wright said. “He told me, ‘You’re the only one left.’” In Mantoloking, Sandy’s surge was so powerful that it washed cars, homes, trees and other debris into Barnegat Bay as if they were toy sailboats floating along a stream.

Wright built his home 30 years ago and made the choice to use pilings and elevate it. Taking all the right precautions and following up with his building officials prior to construction, Wright was able to create a design that made his home strong enough to withstand Sandy’s force. He later enclosed his ground level with breakaway walls, designed to collapse during a flood impact.

“We came back in here and it was just beyond belief,” Wright said about returning to his devastated neighborhood. He lost his furnace, outside air conditioning unit, washer, dryer, and vehicles, but that is all he lost.

As storms like Sandy impact the US more frequently, the state of New Jersey and FEMA emphasizes the importance of building to codes and standards. By adopting and enforcing regulations in their flood damage prevention ordinances, communities will be able to better manage risk. These methods will also help minimize flood damages, save property owners significant costs in the long term, reduce injuries and save lives.

To learn more on elevating your home contact your local officials and visit, <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-2/elevation>.

To find more information about pilings, structure stabilization, breakaway walls and other information on coastal construction design visit, <http://www.fema.gov/residential-coastal-construction>.