

Satellite captures the life and death of Hurricane Sandy on Halloween (w/ Video)

October 31 2012



This GOES-13 satellite image was captured on Oct. 31 at 1240 UTC as Sandy's circulation was winding down over Pennsylvania. Sandy had been downgraded a remnant low pressure area. Credit: NASA GOES Project

Hurricane Sandy is giving up the ghost on Halloween over Penn. As the storm weakened to a remnant low pressure area the NASA GOES

Project released an animation of NOAA's GOES-13 satellite imagery covering Hurricane Sandy's entire life.

The GOES-13 satellite is managed by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA), and NASA's GOES Project at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. creates images and animations from GOES data.

The animation of Sandy's life runs from Oct. 23 through 31. It begins when Tropical Depression 18 strengthened into [Hurricane](#) Sandy on Oct. 23, 2012. The animation shows Hurricane Sandy blowing from the Caribbean to the mid-Atlantic where it became wedged between a stationary cold front over the Appalachians and a static high pressure air mass over maritime Canada. The air masses blocked the storm from moving north or east, as it would normally. Instead, their wintery dynamics amplified Sandy and drove it ashore in the mid-Atlantic.

Sandy then became a ferocious Nor'easter that brought record storm surges to coastal N.J. and N.Y., plus blizzard conditions to the mountains. Unprecedented chaos occurred in lower New York City, such as flooding the subway system on the evening of Oct. 29. Total damage by the storm was estimated at \$20 billion dollars.

NOAA's National Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (NOAA/HPC) issued an advisory at 5 a.m. EDT on Oct. 31 that stated there was "no discernible [surface circulation](#)." Sandy had weakened to a surface trough (elongated area) of low pressure over western Penn.

There are a lot of warnings and watches in effect as Sandy continues to wind down. Gale warnings and small craft advisories are in effect for portions of the great lakes. Small craft advisories are in effect along much of the Mid-Atlantic and northeast coasts.

Flood and coastal flood watches, warnings and advisories are in effect over portions of the Mid-Atlantic and northeast states. Coastal flooding along portions of the Great Lakes is also possible.

Winter storm warnings and winter weather advisories remain in effect for the mountains of southwest Pennsylvania, western Maryland, West Virginia, eastern Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, and extreme western North Carolina.

Sandy is appropriately dying on Halloween, but the storm's effects will linger for some time.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: Satellite captures the life and death of Hurricane Sandy on Halloween (w/ Video) (2012, October 31) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-satellite-captures-life-death-hurricane.html>

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