

Thursday, November 8, 2012

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## NEW YORK

# Statue of Liberty is closed indefinitely in the aftermath of monster storm Sandy

Lady Liberty had just reopened last weekend after a \$30 million overhaul. While Liberty Island and Ellis Island were both threatened by rising flood waters, the statue and museum don't appear to have suffered any significant damage.

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 BY [LARRY MCSHANE](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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(AP PHOTO/CRAIG RUTTLE)

**Waves crash over the bow of a tug boat as it passes near the Statue of Liberty on Monday. Lady Liberty is being closed off indefinitely.**

The Statue of Liberty, reopened last weekend after a \$30 million refurbishing, is closed indefinitely after the hurricane's massive storm surge flooded its New York Harbor home.

Liberty Island and its historic neighbor, Ellis Island, were both victimized by the record high water level in the harbor as Hurricane Sandy took no mercy on the national landmarks, said National Parks Service spokeswoman Mindy Rambo.

**PHOTOS: HURRICANE SANDY'S PATH OF DESTRUCTION**

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A quick examination showed no damage to the statue and no water damage to the Ellis Island museum, she said. But a team of federal inspectors was due at the two sites Saturday to conduct a full assessment of any possible infrastructure problems at the two island sites.

"There was water damage to the Statue of Liberty site," said Rambo. "We will not know until the team is through exactly how long the site will be closed."



(AP PHOTO/RICHARD DREW)

**The passenger terminal for a ferry that takes riders to the Statue of Liberty was in shambles from superstorm Sandy on Tuesday.**

The statue's crown just reopened to the public last Sunday after a year-long renovation for Lady Liberty. New steps — a daunting 393, up from the old total of 354 — allowed better access to the crown with its panoramic views of the city skyline and the Jersey shoreline.

Other upgrades included new granite staircases outside the monument, upgrades to the pedestal elevators and wheelchair access to the observation decks. It was unclear if the storm damaged any of the new additions to the 126-year-old gift from the people of France.

Parks officials expected about 13,000 visitors to scale the new stairs to the crown in the last two months of this year — with all the tickets for a 2012 trip sold out before the statue was reopened. It was closed last October for the work to begin.

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A Bronx dad drowned his 5-year-old son in bathtub — and then fed his 7-year-old daughter rat poison, police



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A slurring Diane Sawyer shocked viewers Tuesday night during ABC News' election coverage, prompting many to wonder



**A living hell in NYCHA houses**

For more than a week, hundreds of public housing tenants — mostly ailing or elderly — have been trapped inside their upper-



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The rain is already coming down as the East Coast braces for Hurricane Sandy. For the second time in a



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Kimberly Mitchell was just 10 months old when her life was transformed by a U.S.



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**NAYROD64** 6 days ago0 

She's a tough o'l broad..She's french too, aren't they hard headed? lol

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**BOBLEEDS** 6 days ago0 

"There Is Nothing Like A Dame"

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**CRAFTER** 7 days ago0 

I love our Statue of Liberty. It is elegant and says so much about who we are and where we all came from! We visited there several years ago and it was such a thrill for me to see it in person. Take good care of her. She's worth every penny we have to spend!

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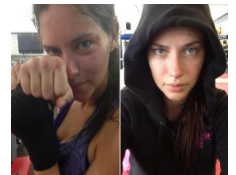
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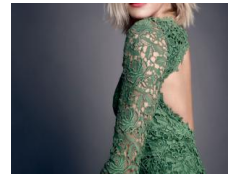
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The 40-year-old actress, who last month stunned in a leather corset for the cover of Esquire UK, this month



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