



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Impact of 1938 Hurricane on Northeast Region Coast Guard Stations and Boats

(Reference: Statement dated 6 March 1939 by CMDT RADM R.R. Waesche, USCG before U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations, Hearings on Second Deficiency Appropriation Bill;

Compiled by CDR Timothy Dring, USNR-Ret. May 2010)

Station Gay Head (Martha's Vineyard), MA

Separate beach-located boathouse and launchway completely destroyed. Minor damage to main station building. Dory No. 3931 destroyed; Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2980 badly damaged. Type SR motor surfboat No. 4842 damaged but repairable.

Boathouse rebuilt in 1941 at its current location at Menemsha.

Station Cuttyhunk, MA

Main station building badly damaged. All out buildings including original two boathouses completely destroyed. Dories Nos. 4894 and 4895 damaged beyond repair. 38ft. cabin picket boat No. 4303 and Type SR motor surfboat No. 4413 damaged, but repairable.

Main station building and boathouse both completely rebuilt as "Roosevelt type" structures.

Station Brenton Point, RI

Main station building badly damaged beyond repair. All out buildings including boathouse completely destroyed, with launchway badly damaged. Type HR motor lifeboat No. 2052 washed ashore and damaged enough that repairs were not practical and boat later scrapped (later replaced by new Type TRS motor lifeboat No. 5192/CG36453); Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 4120 damaged beyond repair; dinghy No. 5138, and dories Nos. 4603 and 4604 damaged beyond repair. 38ft. cabin picket boat No. 2393/CG38309 damaged, but repairable.

Station site was abandoned, and new station complex built nearby at Castle Hill Cove in 1941.

Station Point Judith, RI

Main station building flooded; boathouse destroyed; launchway and all other out buildings heavily damaged. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 4117 damaged beyond repair, skiff No. 3746 lost.

New boathouse built at separate site in nearby Galilee in 1941.

Station Quonochontaug, RI

Station was inactive, but was completely destroyed by storm surge.

Station Watch Hill, RI

Approach road destroyed; boathouse and launchway moved off foundations and heavily damaged; all other out buildings destroyed, along with seawall. Main station building sustained only moderate damage. Dorries Nos. 4178 and 4605 destroyed; skiff No. 3366 damaged beyond repair. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2981, and dory No. 3969 damaged, but repairable.

Main station building and boathouse later rebuilt by WWII.

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Station Block Island, RI

Station and out buildings only slightly damaged.

Station Fishers Island, NY

Separate beach-located boathouse pushed off of foundation.

Entire station complex later closed and relocated to current Silver Eel Pond site.

Base 4 and Training Station Fort Trumbull, New London, CT

Buildings and piers sustained only moderate damage. Motor launch No. 2901 washed away and lost; dinghy No. 4131, and Monomoy type pulling surfboats Nos. 1697 and 2991 damaged beyond repair. Patrol boats Nos. 156, 171, and 406, and dinghy No. 2571 damaged, but repairable.

Station Ditch Plain, NY

Detached boathouse on beach destroyed, and original station building (being used for equipment storage) damaged beyond repair. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2416 damaged beyond repair.

Station Hither Plain, NY

Station was inactive, and suffered significant damage.

Repaired since it was still needed as an auxiliary boathouse facility.

Station Napeague, NY

Major site damage to roads and utilities, although buildings survived with only moderate damage. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2151 damaged beyond repair. Type S motor surfboat No. 4418/CG25554 damaged, but repairable.

Station Georgica, NY

All station buildings heavily damaged. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2152 damaged beyond repair. Skiff No. 4534 damaged, but repairable.

Station Mecox, NY

Station was inactive. All station buildings severely damaged.

Station was not rebuilt, although kept in CG custody through WWII for beach patrol purposes.

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Station Shinnecock, NY

All station buildings were completely destroyed, and station site ruined by newly formed inlet. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2154, and motor dinghy No. 2903 washed out to sea and lost; ice scooter No. 3082 damaged beyond repair. Motor launch No. 3763, Type S pulling surfboat No. 4518/CG25426, and skiff No. 4525 damaged, but repairable.

Station was rebuilt in 1941 on mainland across from new inlet at its current site. Station Tiana temporarily took over Station Shinnecock's patrol and rescue responsibilities while new station was being built.

Station Tiana, NY

Station was inactive, and sustained significant damage to all buildings.

Station was repaired and re-opened to cover for Station Shinnecock while it was being rebuilt.

Station Quogue, NY

Station was inactive, and sustained significant damage to all buildings.

Station was repaired and re-opened to cover for Station Moriches while it was being rebuilt.

Station Potunk, NY

Station was inactive, and all station buildings were completely destroyed.

Only the station lookout tower was rebuilt as an auxiliary lookout post.

Station Moriches, NY

All station buildings were completely destroyed, and station site was ruined by widening of previously smaller inlet. Type S surfboats Nos. 4520 and 4109, and Race Point type pulling surfboats Nos. 2420 and 2155 damaged beyond repair; motor dinghy No. 3064 and ice scooter No. 3093 washed away and lost. Motor rescue boat No. 4550 damaged and repairable, but was later scrapped.

Station was rebuilt in 1941 on mainland across from inlet at its current site. Station Quogue temporarily took over Station Moriches' patrol and rescue responsibilities while new station was being built.

Station Forge River, NY

Bayside-located station dock completely destroyed, and all station buildings significantly damaged. Race Point type pulling surfboat No. 2156 washed away and lost; skiff No. 2425 damaged beyond repair.

Station Smiths Point, NY

Station was inactive, and most station buildings were destroyed.

Only the lookout tower was rebuilt and kept as an auxiliary lookout site.

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Station Bellport, NY

Bayside-located station dock completely destroyed, and all station buildings significantly damaged.

Station dock was later rebuilt and buildings repaired.

Station Lone Hill, NY

Station was inactive, and most station buildings were destroyed.

Only the lookout tower was rebuilt and kept as an auxiliary lookout site.

Station Point of Woods, NY

Station was inactive. All station buildings severely damaged.

Station was not rebuilt, although kept in CG custody through WWII for beach patrol purposes.

Station Oak Island Beach, NY

Station was active only as an auxiliary lookout site. Boathouse completely destroyed, and all other buildings severely damaged.

Only the lookout tower was repaired.

Station Fire Island, NY

All station buildings and structures were significantly damaged, but survived.

Station buildings and facilities underwent a significant expansion and modernization in 1941.

Station Jones Beach, NY (note: this is the original Station Jones Beach, not Station Short Beach)

Station buildings survived, but sustained significant flooding and wind damage. Dory No. 3814 washed away and lost.

Station Short Beach, NY (now called Station Jones Beach)

Station buildings sustained moderate damage.

Station Rockaway Point, NY

Moderate damage to station buildings and dock.

Station and facilities were completely rebuilt in 1940.

Station Sandy Hook, NJ

Heavy damage to boathouse and launchway, and moderate damage to main station buildings.

Station wharf and boathouse facilities were rebuilt by WWII.

