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5 apps for tracking Hurricane Sandy

By Quentin Fottrell



Stuart Miles / Shutterstock.com

Using mobile devices to keep tabs on the storm — even in a power outage.

As Hurricane Sandy roars into the Northeast, people around the country will be checking to see whether they're in the path of the 900-mile-wide storm — and how best to respond. Many will turn to storm-tracking apps for help, and they'll find a glut of services to choose from. (There's no single official government hurricane app, but several products on the market use data from the federal National Hurricane Center and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)

HURRICANE SANDY: RELATED STORIES

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Apps offer one advantage over tracking the storm online or via television: If the power goes out, they'll continue to give updates as long as a user's smartphone battery has juice. Here are five of the best and most popular.

Hurricane

shopping

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direction and pressure. Users can search for historical data on storms in the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and World, and compare Sandy to previous hurricanes. It costs \$2.99 to download.



How to help the victims of Hurricane Sandy

Jonnelle Marte on Lunch Break looks at how people can help with donations for hurricane emergency relief.

Names” to explore previous storms and even frequently asked questions about storms. There’s a “Talkin’ Tropics” forum with comments from other users and the latest weather warnings from national weather centers. It costs \$3.99.

Weather Channel

The [Weather Channel](#) app recently surpassed 90 million downloads, thanks to its obvious name recognition, its availability across a range of platforms, and its ability to leverage a staff of 200-plus meteorologists. It’s currently available on Windows, iPhone, BlackBerry and Android. “Everyone relies on the Weather Channel because of its accuracy,” says Rick Singer, CEO of [GreatApps.com](#). The site has video, forecasts and satellite images of Sandy and gives weather alerts.

Hurricane Hound

[Hurricane Hound](#) is a popular app for Android users, as it tracks storms using Google Maps as background and highlights areas the National Weather Service is watching as possibly being hit harder by the storm. Unlike the Weather Channel app, it doesn’t provide local forecasts, but Hurricane Hound has radar and satellite data, with details on maximum wind speeds and a 12-hour forecast for the storm. It’s free with ads; the ad-free version costs \$1.99. ■



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Available on Android and iPhone, [Hurricane](#) has satellite images and bulletins provided by the National Hurricane Center; it also enables video updates and Twitter integration for a constant stream of information. Users can track Sandy’s path along the coast, and get details on speed,

Hurricane Track for iOS

Available on iPhone only, [Hurricane Track for iOS](#) is helpful, basic and free. It doesn’t have video and only offers eight satellite “radar” views, but it shows the projected path of Sandy — and other storms — over a five-day period. It also has satellite images, local forecasts, future projected cyclone paths, and potential cloud formations. Reviewers have cited its good download speed.

Hurricane Tracker HD

[This app](#) is designed specifically for the larger iPad screen. It provides audio and video updates on Sandy and can track multiple storms in the same area simultaneously. The “Real-Time Updates” button also offers regular news bulletins via Twitter. It has a sidebar of links like “Storm