

CHALLENGE: PINNACLE ENVIRONMENTAL HELPS HIGH-RISE OFFICE BUILDING RECOVER FROM FLOODING AND FIRE

A high-rise building in New York was without power after water from a potent rain storm leaked into the transformer room of the building. **The initial leakage occurred in an underground Con Edison equipment vault adjacent to the building, causing water to flow into the conduits feeding the main electrical service room in the building's basement level.** The water was first reported to Con Edison at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning by the Building Engineer. At 2 p.m. it was reported to Con Edison that the amount of water was increasing rapidly. At 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, 2 Con Edison employees arrived on the scene.

While Con Edison personnel were inspecting the transformer room, **the water in the room caused minor explosions that set off a fire. The New York Fire Department was notified of a fire in the building at 9:26 p.m. For nearly five hours 60 firemen battled the fire through smoke and elevated levels of carbon monoxide to bring the fire under control.**

As a result of the fire, power to all 52 floors of the building was lost and smoke damage caused the owner of the building to require all tenants to relocate. The two Con Edison workers were unharmed in the fire and the fire was contained in the transformer room. Further complications were created by the asbestos fireproofing in the transformer room, and immediate asbestos abatement was required.

SOLUTION

Pinnacle Environmental Corporation was hired by InStar Disaster & Restoration to provide around-the-clock clean-up at the site. Pinnacle had workers on-site Saturday night to begin work and on Sunday increased the workload to 100 people working on two 12-hour shifts. By Monday, the workload doubled to include 100 people per shift, and by Tuesday, there were 500 workers in the building. Work will continue on the site around the clock and continued for a full week until the clean-up was completed. Pinnacle also submitted emergency notifications to the NYC DEP and were subsequently permitted to perform the asbestos abatement. The abatement was completed within three days with crews working 24/7.

VALUE

Pinnacle was on the scene immediately after being called in by InStar, taking the necessary action to recover the building, preventing further damage and performing all environmental abatement services. The speed of the recovery is due in part to Pinnacle's ability to provide over 100 crew members on-site working around the clock less than 24 hours after the initial explosion. Progressively doubling the work force and keeping crews on site every hour of the day ensured that all damage was repaired and asbestos abatement was completed to code, allowing tenants to get back to work. **The building officially re-opened sixteen days after the fire.**