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CASE STUDY: Drying After Hurricanes



Lancaster, PA, November 2004



On August 18, Cliff Ellis, Compleat Restorations' C.E.O., left for Florida with two restoration teams. Compleat Restorations had been summoned to gather with other Water Out® service providers and DKI (Disaster Kleenup International) members from across the nation to help with restoration efforts following Hurricane Charley. All totalled, over 25,000 pieces of equipment and 1,000 project managers and technicians were deployed.

Compleat Restorations is a member of the DKI and Water Out organizations. Each represents an alliance of professional restoration contractors that can be mobilized on short notice to aid fellow members in catastrophic loss situations. Should we ever experience a large-scale loss in southcentral PA, Compleat Restorations can rely on DKI and Water Out to send additional response teams to aid us in timely emergency response and restoration. For this reason, no loss is too big for us to handle.



While in Florida, Compleat Restorations dried water-damaged buildings using our Water Out trailers. Water Out's new technology employs an "open" drying system, using outside air, not recycled air. It works by pulling outside air into a Water Out trailer where it is heated and conditioned to a super dry 2% RH (Relative Humidity). Compare that to a desert, which averages 20% RH! That fresh, dry, outside air is pumped into the flooded building and circulated throughout. Before that dry air is exhausted from the building, it has absorbed huge quantities of water, odors and mold spores. The moisture is sent outside with **zero** recirculation. Fresh, dry air in. Wet, musty air out.



Water Out's technology far surpasses the performance of older drying methods and we can provide drying documentation. With our measurements and Water Out's laptop-based data logging system, we can document that the Water Out system has dried the property thoroughly. Hundreds of Florida condominiums, businesses and hotels were dried after the hurricanes using Water Out, including Disney properties!

Our crews left Pennsylvania during Summer not knowing what they would find upon their arrival in Florida. When they returned in October, they had restored properties from the aftermath of not just one hurricane, but several. During their stay, The Sunshine State was also ravaged by Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.



Our crews describe their trip as successful and rewarding. But like all adventurers, they did experience some challenges. They weren't sure where they would sleep some nights, there were some very long commutes from filled-to-capacity hotels to the work sites, there were gasoline shortages, power outages, heat, humidity, hurricanes, tropical storms, and some startling encounters with native wildlife, namely snakes!

