



Families of Mexican Factory Workers Missing After Hurricane Seek Answers

Description

The tragic aftermath of Hurricane Helene has revealed a profound loss within the workforce of a local plastics factory, particularly affecting the Mexican American community, of which four of the six missing workers were members.

In the days following the catastrophic flooding triggered by the hurricane, loved ones and community supporters have congregated for heartfelt vigils outside churches, a local high school, and grocery stores to commemorate the victims. During one such evening, Daniel Delgado tenderly embraced a photograph of his wife, Monica Hernandez, lighting a candle under the ominous lowering clouds, while family members clutched posters embedded with their loved ones' images, crumbling beneath the emotional weight of their grief as search helicopters circled above.

As prayers in Spanish are uttered over rosary beads, the haunting question lingers: "Mary, mother of Jesus, intercede and aid us in our search." The hurricane has claimed at least 230 lives across six states, devastating Erwin, a town with a modest population of around 6,000, where more than 50 individuals were rescued from the submerged rooftops of a hospital.

Unanswered Questions

In the wake of this calamity, two state investigations have commenced, seeking to ascertain whether Impact Plastics should have taken more proactive measures to safeguard its workers. Families of the missing grapple with the ferocity of the storm, questioning the decisions that kept their loved ones at work as floodwaters surged. "We ask: Why? Why did she go to work? Why did she remain?" implored Guadalupe Hernandez-Corona, as hope wanes.

Gerald O'Connor, President of Impact Plastics, asserts that no employee was compelled to stay, insisting they were evacuated well ahead of the flooding. Yet, surviving workers convey a starkly different narrative, contending that the evacuation order came too late. Distressingly, some colleagues clung precariously to pipes on truck beds for hours, while others witnessed coworkers swept away by the relentless current.

Delayed Evacuations

Despite the imminent threat, the plant actioned normal operations even as local educational institutions closed. Reports of flooding only garnered attention when water accumulation became alarming. Ultimately, evacuation directives were issued only after power outages and rising water levels prompted immediate action.



While feelings of anger and frustration simmer within the Hispanic community, many mourn the preventable loss of life at their place of employment. The deep connections between these workers and the town underscore the immense emotional toll of this tragedy.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Calamity** /kə'læm.i.ti/ (noun): A disastrous event causing great damage or distress.
2. **Proactive** /,prəʊ'æk.tɪv/ (adjective): Taking action to control a situation rather than waiting to respond to it.
3. **Devastating** /'dev.ə.steɪ.tɪŋ/ (adjective): Causing severe and overwhelming shock or grief.
4. **Congregated** /'kɒŋ.greɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Gathered together in a group or crowd.
5. **Ominous** /'ɑ:.mɪ.nəs/ (adjective): Giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen.
6. **Evacuation** /ɪ,væk.ju'eɪ.ʃən/ (noun): The act of removing a person or a group from a place of danger.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. How many lives were claimed by the hurricane across six states?
Option: Over 200
Option: Exactly 230
Option: Less than 100
Option: Around 300
2. Where did loved ones and community supporters congregate for vigils to commemorate the victims?
Option: Police stations
Option: Local parks
Option: Churches, high school, grocery stores
Option: Hospitals
3. Who implored with the questions "Why did she go to work? Why did she remain?"
Option: Daniel Delgado
Option: Monica Hernandez
Option: Guadalupe Hernandez-Corona
Option: Gerald O'Connor
4. How many missing workers from the local plastics factory were members of the Mexican American



community?

- Option: Two
- Option: Three
- Option: Four
- Option: Five

5. How many individuals were rescued from the submerged rooftops of a hospital in Erwin?

- Option: Around 20
- Option: Exactly 50
- Option: More than 100
- Option: Less than 10

6. Who asserts that no employee was compelled to stay and that they were evacuated well ahead of the flooding?

- Option: Daniel Delgado
- Option: Monica Hernandez
- Option: Guadalupe Hernandez-Corona
- Option: Gerald O'Connor

True-False

7. Delayed evacuations were issued only after power outages and rising water levels prompted immediate action.

8. Impact Plastics is the name of the local plastics factory affected by the hurricane.

9. The plant ceased operations promptly when reports of flooding started coming in.

10. According to Gerald O'Connor, the evacuation order came too early for the employees to react.

11. The tragic aftermath of Hurricane Helene only affected the Hispanic community in Erwin.

12. More than 300 lives were claimed by the hurricane.

Gap-Fill



15. Impact Plastics faced scrutiny to determine if they should have taken more _____ measures.

18. The deep connections between the workers and the town highlight the _____ toll of the tragedy.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Exactly 230 2. Churches, high school, grocery stores 3. Guadalupe Hernandez-Corona 4. Four 5. Exactly 50 6. Gerald O'Connor

True-False: 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 15. proactive 18. emotional

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term best describes a topic that is likely to cause disagreement or argument?

- Option: Revitalization
- Option: Proactive
- Option: Contentious
- Option: Resilience

2. Which word means causing great damage or harm?

- Option: Nonchalant
- Option: Devastating
- Option: Compulsion
- Option: Collaboration

3. What term is used to describe something based on conjecture rather than knowledge?

- Option: Derision
- Option: Speculative
- Option: Agility
- Option: Productivity

4. A _____ is an event causing great and often sudden damage or distress.

- Option: Revitalization



- Option: Derision
- Option: Calamity
- Option: Compulsion

5. Which term refers to the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties?

- Option: Erosion
- Option: Congested
- Option: Resilience
- Option: Collaborative

6. If something is _____ it suggests that something bad is going to happen.

- Option: Proactive
- Option: Congested
- Option: Acerbic
- Option: Ominous

7. What term refers to the ability to move quickly and easily?

- Option: Evacuation
- Option: Inherent
- Option: Agility
- Option: Prevalent

8. Which word means the action of working with someone to produce something?

- Option: Adulation
- Option: Collaboration
- Option: Precipitate
- Option: Delineates

9. A _____ is a strong usually irresistible impulse to perform an act.

- Option: Congregated
- Option: Ramifications
- Option: Capricious
- Option: Compulsion

10. Which term refers to the action of imbuing something with new life and vitality?

- Option: Erosion
- Option: Revitalization
- Option: Nonchalant
- Option: Reevaluating

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is the process of eroding or being eroded by wind water or other natural



agents.

12. _____ in urban areas is often caused by high population density and a high number of vehicles.
13. The hotel can _____ up to 200 guests during the peak season.
14. Stress-related illnesses are becoming more _____ in today's fast-paced world.
15. His ideas were met with _____ and ridicule by his peers.
16. The actor received widespread _____ for his outstanding performance in the movie.
17. His _____ behavior made it difficult for his friends to predict his actions.
18. She was surprisingly _____ about the news of her promotion not showing much excitement.
19. The fallen tree limb _____ the path making it difficult for hikers to pass through.
20. A _____ approach often involves anticipating and preventing problems before they occur.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Investing in high-risk ventures without thorough research is considered irresponsible and .
22. During the religious festival thousands of people in the town square to witness the procession.
23. His rash decision to quit his job without a backup plan a period of uncertainty and financial instability.
24. Successful projects often result from effective and communication among team members.
25. The government's initiative to promote the of the downtown area led to new businesses opening up.
26. Athletes need to maintain their physical to excel in fast-paced sports like soccer or basketball.
27. The decision to cut funding for education had far-reaching on the quality of schooling.



28. The fallen debris continued to traffic flow on the highway causing long delays.

29. Her to check her phone every few minutes was a habit she found hard to break.

30. The seamless between the design and engineering teams resulted in a groundbreaking product.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Contentious 2. Devastating 3. Speculative 4. Calamity 5. Resilience 6. Ominous 7. Agility 8. Collaboration 9. Compulsion 10. Revitalization

Gap-Fill: 11. Erosion 12. Congestion 13. accommodate 14. prevalent 15. derision 16. adulation 17. capricious 18. nonchalant 19. obstruct 20. proactive

Matching sentence: 1. speculative 2. congregated 3. precipitate 4. collaboration 5. revitalization 6. agility 7. ramifications 8. obstruct 9. compulsion 10. collaboration

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

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