

Angellysse Godoy

Interviewed by Joshua Williams

October 29, 2017

Corpus Christi, Texas

Joshua Williams Hello my name is Josh, Joshua Williams, and we're going to be talking about the Hurricane Harvey uhh so do I have your permission to conduct this interview

Angellysse Godoy Yes

JW Alrighty, can you please state your name for the record?

AG My name is Angellysse Godoy.

JW Alright, and where were you on the day of the hurricane?

AG The day of the hurricane, my family and I stayed here in Corpus. We stayed at home. It was my brother, my mom, her boyfriend, and then my best friend.

JW Alrighty, so it wasn't just you?

AG No. No, not at all.

JW Alright. Okay so we're going to get a little background information about the storm before we begin. So when did you first hear of the storm?

AG Um, I honestly heard about the storm like in the middle of the week, but I didn't take it seriously at all and neither did my mom because obviously we stayed. But, we didn't take it seriously. We just, we thought it was just going to be like harsh rain and that's all. And it wasn't until like two days before, even like the day after, like I was at work or I was at work on Thursday and no one was there; the whole restaurant was dead, and I was just like okay. Or maybe this is a little serious like I should not be in Corpus. So I don't know, we had, we had boarded up the house so and everything thing so we had no intention of leaving, and then they started like letting people go early from work, so I was like all right like I maybe this is ahh maybe this is something I need to be worried about kind of thing. But I left work and I still had the intention of going to work the next day, but I didn't want to and after that like I went home and we stayed there and we learned how seriously it actually was.

JW So you said that you found out about the storm in the middle of the week; now was that the week before or the week of the hurricane?

AG The week of the hurricane. I heard like little things that it was going, that there might be one but I didn't know that it was going to be like actually like how it was.

JW Okay alright now well let's get now let's get into the hurricane about what time did you start hearing the effects?

AG Hearing, hearing the effects it was it was still light outside because my mom and I were just sitting outside drinking a beer talking and it was raining. I mean it wasn't really raining it was mostly windy and so we stayed out there it feel good it look nice my mom likes that kind of weather so so we are just outside with each other and then it started raining a little bit and then the wind started picking up a little bit more okay so we should go inside now. That's when we went inside. The electricity was on for a while; it took about maybe three or four hours once it started for the electricity to go out, but before that we were okay, and then once the electricity went out we all went downstairs; we let a bunch of candles, and we started playing games; we played like Face 10, Monopoly, all these card games. We were just sitting downstairs in my backyard we have like a patio door that leads outside, but it doesn't go directly outside; we have like a small patio with the cover. And so we had the door open since it was just so so so so so hot. We just had the door open so when it was all going on. So we heard everything; we had to like pinup with the big cement cube that we have, we did that, but it wasn't too bad. It was more relaxing, but it was scary at the same time. Like there were my uhh we had even seen our neighbors' fence blown down like with the door open. And then we were like ok yeah we need to close the door, so then we closed it and went on.

JW Okay. Now did your prepare for the storm? Did y'all ride it out with what y'all had or? What was that like? What were preparations for?

AG Once I guess my mom went to go, honestly oh we bought was a bunch of waters, like we bought two cases of waters; we bought some things that didn't have to be refrigerated, and if they did have to be refrigerated we had like a little ice chest where we put like the sandwich meat and and stuff like that. Like we had already prepared like ice chest for the food that was already in the freezer. Because we knew that the electricity was probably going to go out. So they already had like ice chests filled with ice. And then we had like those cases of water, and then we had a few sandwich meats; we had a lot chips, a lot of just like boxed foods that you could eat. There wasn't really a lot. And honestly I really didn't notice how much we rely on like our all our, our electricity. I mean that's, its crazy; our milk, everything, like everything had to come out. And umm that's, that's basically what they did, they just, that's, that's, that's how we prepared for it and then of course boarding at the house. My mom and her boyfriend like cut the boards and they're the ones that put everything up, so I would say that we are pretty well well prepared; we took we umm tied down our tree. We have a little garden in the front yard so they tide those down so it wouldn't like fly everywhere. We had told the neighbors to cut down their tree

because it was just leaning so much over into our house and my mom was afraid that it could fall like on our side and land into my brothers window or my window but, but they didn't so we tried on that part. But other than that we pretty much like tied everything down and everything down and everything was secure. We brought in the chairs from the patio, just like put everything away that could possibly intentionally hurt us or harm us in anyway.

JW So y'all were very prepared in fact. Was this your first hurricane that you ever been through?

AG Yes. It was my, I never I've never experienced anything like that and I never thought that I mean not that I thought that it was super bad but but that's like the worst thing that has happened so far to me, and I can only imagine like everywhere else, but as of here it really wasn't too too bad.

JW What about for your mom or your mom's boyfriend was this their first hurricane?

AG Yes it was. So my mom was freaking out; she already doesn't like the rain, like she's scared of the rain, so she was okay with the wind and everything like but once it started raining, she was kind of like- she was scared, and then like it was scary the next couple days without there being any power like anywhere, so it was a little rough.

JW Okay how much of the initial storm here do you remember? Weather wise sounds.

AG It was it was just extremely windy like out of everything it was more windy than anything. So there was stuff flying around and like two houses down there was a trampoline that flew in to their backyard into their pool so it was really really windy; all of my neighbors' houses all of their fences broke down, like they all broke down; they had things in their front yard. We didn't really get anything in our front yard, but we just I had the fence their fences in our backyard now. Everything of just kind of formed into one big backyard pretty much. Um.

JW What else did you see out there? You said you saw the trampoline in the pool what else strange? Did you see?

AG Yes. The next day like I said the next day there was no power or anything well like we went we were in our vehicles and drove around like to see. And their stuff everywhere. Like we went I had to take my friend home to make sure her house was okay. The friend that was with me, and as we we're going there were things on the highway like you could tell that things were just everywhere. Like it looked like a mess. And like all the traffic lights, not all the traffic lights but like 99% of them were out. So it look like it reminded me of The Walking Dead honestly. Like how everything was just everybody was everywhere it was a lot of people on the roads like honestly more than that should have been considering you know all that was happening. All that just happened but there was nothing open because nobody had electricity. So it looked like I want to say a ghost town but there were people driving around and checking out the scene. But there were just things out of place but the scariest part were the traffic lights because it was like a free for all out there.

JW Okay you're talking about after the storm did you have any problems with gas or getting any supplies that you needed prior too?

AG Well we were running out of food yeah because we didn't get that much. We were kind of worried about that but mom's boyfriend had, his sister had electricity still. I think they were using a generator maybe so we were able to go over there and make food there for us. But yeah if we didn't have them then I have no idea, I mean we wouldn't have starved, but I mean we wouldn't have had food for a while and my grandma was out of electricity as well. Everybody that I knew had nothing so they were the ones that helped us.

JW Now was, um, I did hear about the water boils. Did your house or your area get affected by the water boils?

AG Not as far as I know but we could've been and we didn't know but we didn't even know about the water boils. Like I had no idea until my, I think my grandpa asked me about it, and I told him that we didn't do anything about it because we didn't know. But our electricity was out for a while like two days.

JW Two days?

AG Two days. Like when the hurricane hit it went out and then two days after, then it came back on. I knew some people that like had it out for like four days or came back and then it went off. And that's what ours was did. Ours was going off on and coming back on. Then once it the hurricane came or um or you know hit us badly when it went out completely and never came back on until the two day later.

JW What about gas? Did you hear about the gas incidents? Were y'all ever affected by the long lines that were there?

AG My mom was because she didn't have any gas but since we have two vehicles we decided that only one I needed it. So she just went and got hers but yeah she was there for a while. And I know people that were there for like hours trying to fill up all of their cars. And of course the gas prices going up. Her's is already not a regular, regular gas tank so she had to take the Premium and it was expensive, expensive.

JW Now you personally did this storm have an effect on you?

AG Honestly work wise yes because I was off for like so long I have two jobs at the athletic club and at Cheddars. And Cheddars was nice enough to give like uh give me money for the hurricane because we were out, but as far as the athletic club like no, like we didn't get anything from them, they just told us to be safe. But if like I had that job yes I would have not had any money or anything like that to pay bills or my car or my phone. But it seemed like it seems like in Corpus people are understanding, more understanding like the know what happened I know that some people were out of jobs and stuff. So like I kind of feel I kind of like depending on what you need or who you needed from they kind of help you out, like my car payment I couldn't

make it on time so they extended it for me. I know a couple of my mom's house bills they they extended it for her so that kind of helped a lot. But if that were not to happen then yes I would have been affected in a negative way. But I I was okay.

JW What about school?

AG School. Oh school hadn't even started yet, so I was actually okay with that; I I didn't mind. I was like okay okay yay I get to start later. But, when I actually got into school like all my classes were OK they understood. Except for my biology class. They actually he kind of said what we missed we have to just do it on our own. So he kind of just threw it at us. So that was hard. So that was really overwhelming like after the hurricane. But other than that school was OK but besides that subject.

JW Okay. And as far as coming back to work going back to work was there any problems with going on there.

AG Yes. For the athletic club not really; they didn't really let us come back for a while though. But as far as Cheddars they they had to stay closed because they never got electricity back. They didn't get it back for a while. And then when they did get it back we were short like a few things. And that customers were wanting like drinks or some foods. So it was a little rough at first getting up. But it kind of took kind of took it took a while to pick back up to get back things back to normal. But other than that it was okay.

JW Now was there any moment in the storm where you felt that y'all should've just left? That y'all shouldn't have. Shouldn't have stayed. Y'all should've packed up and went somewhere else?

AG Yes I did feel like that because I didn't know how. How bad it was going to get or if it was going to get worse. But at the same time I did enjoy being with my family. Because we don't usually do that. So it was kind of. It was kind of nice to be with them and like play games with them and stuff. But I did, I was scared. And when we didn't have the electricity. We didn't have A/C or anything. I didn't realize. I mean I know how fortunate we are but. I could not believe how miserable I felt without electricity. Not not really necessarily electricity but like AC. Because Corpus is already so hot and humid. Our house we have like uh rather big house. So it got so humid. And when it was humid it was just like nowhere to go. Like no space. Like it was just super-hot. So I did feel like we should've left. More for our safety though. Because it was, it was could've been bad; something could've flown through a window broken the glass. That tree could have fallen. Like a lot of things could have gone wrong. But I was. We were fortunate enough that nothing happened to us.

JW That's good, that's good. Okay so we have covered a lot in this interview. I know you said that. A lot of a lot of you knew a lot of people that it was bad for. Did that did any of that affect you? In seeing any of your friends go to a lot of troubles. Did any of that affect you in any way?

AG It didn't affect me personally personally because of course it wasn't happening to me. But, yes I did have friends that are still going through having to pay for things that their insurance

didn't cover. Because for mine, our insurance covered quite a bit. Like as far as the house shifting. They said they helped us in that sense. But for the people that were affected by that had broken fences or something. Like it didn't, like yeah. Like I had a friend that her fence came down and her insurance didn't pay for. So her parents are having to pay for that out of their pocket. So it's kind of sad that that happened. But no I was fortunate enough that in that nothing happened to me or my belongings.

JW Now giving. Hearing about what happened to Aransas Pass and knowing that that could've been us. Does that change your moods about Corpus?

AG I'm so glad that that wasn't us. But I feel so sorry for those people because. That just happened out of nowhere. People lost everything. And I actually do you have a close friend that lives in Houston. And he had to walk home. He had to leave his truck parked and walk home, I think he said knee-deep water because of how flooded it was and this was when it was already. It already, it already passed us- I think our electricity might have been on already. Maybe, I'm not too sure. I don't remember. But, he had to stay at home. He was out of work. He didn't have his vehicle. He didn't have anything at his house. He's just a college student that lives alone. So he didn't have anything. And so that actually did impact me because I couldn't do anything about it. But, I know we could've gotten it way like way way worse. So I am just really fortunate that it wasn't like that.

JW Okay. Yeah, and now on the same topic. Does it make you want to move?

AG Well I already want to get out of Corpus. So, ha ha that wouldn't, I mean. I feel like disasters could happen anywhere. At any given point it could be you know hurricane like this or an earthquake or tornado many other different things. So, it wouldn't necessarily be a factor for me to move out of corpus. But, I already want to leave so ha ha.

JW So you're. So what you are saying is that hurricane, hurricane or not it's just I'm out.

AG Yes exactly. Ha ha

JW Okay, so. Would you stay? Would you say to another one? If you do you by chance stay in corpus for the rest of, your next 20 years. Would you say to another hurricane? Or the next few?

AG Umm. No. I wouldn't because I feel like we chance it with that one just because we didn't really think it was going to happen. But, I, I would say that the next one I'm going to leave. For sure. Because I don't want to risk anything or, I just, I don't know, I don't want to risk anything. Of course though like, once we did, did figure out that it was, was going to be bad. It was already, it would've been worse to leave. Like where we were wouldn't have known where to go. The only place that we have family would be San Antonio. But even at that it was raining. So, we would still be putting ourselves in danger by, by driving out there. So, but the next one I, if I find out early enough I, and it would be safe to leave, I would plan on leaving.

JW Okay. So okay okay. Given that you said that if you would have known sooner, you, you didn't have no warning? There was and you didn't hear about it? A lot sooner than then two days before?

AG Well, we did. But my mom just didn't think that it was going to be, be serious at all. So, so I mean I didn't either. Like I, I, I thought- I know how she is with the rain. Like I said she doesn't like it. So I figured well, if it was going to be bad we would leave. And I don't watch the news or anything. I didn't, I honestly didn't really, I mean if, if I talked about it, it was more of a joking way. Someone said like oh hey we're going to have a hurricane. I'm like yeah. But, like whatever. But it wasn't. It just, it just wasn't, I didn't think it was going to be serious. Just because my mom didn't either so.

JW Okay. Alright, is there anything else you would like to share about it? Anything we haven't covered already.

AG I just think that Corpus should be very, very thankful that we didn't get it worse. Or, that it kinda steered clear from here. I also actually heard about it turning around and coming back. So, that was kind of something that was really scary. Considering like, I was like oh my gosh, I wonder what more could happen. But I'm glad that it didn't. You know turn and come back. But, I'm just glad we're safe.

JW I'm sorry I keep bouncing back-and-forth. But, I just remembered what I was going to going to ask you about being prepared. Now, your school didn't notify you ahead of time prior that any that a storm was being alerted because I know some universities or some institutions do alert their students when a natural disaster is on the way if they are in a disaster prone area. And they didn't do any of that?

AG Um, no honestly I didn't get any notification from them. They did send out a message about school not being in session or school not or that school was going to be postponed until further notice. That's the only, that's the only message that I got about it honestly. And I didn't get another one till they told us that's school was going to be, begin next week. Or whenever it was going to start again. But as far as messages to prepare us for the for it no. None at all. Not as far as I mean they could have put it on their website but I didn't, I didn't get on it. But as far as texting us or giving us alerts. No.

JW Do you feel that should be something that should change in the next coming of years?

AG I think it would be wise. I have never thought about it but, I think that yeah it would be nice; the more, more aware we are to what's happening, I mean, we should all help each other keep. Since technology is already such a big part today. Yeah I think that it could be intertwined in there. And that would've, it could've helped more people to know how serious it was. Because I could have seen and been like wow, like maybe this is serious, 'mom this is a little bit serious, maybe we should go'. So I guess that, I guess that it could have made a difference. I could see it making a difference in future incidences.

JW Ok well that is actually all the questions I have for you. Thank you for letting me interview you and for your experience.

AG You are welcome.

JW Alright. Thank you.