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Sandy brings losses, struggles yet ingenuity to NYC restaurants

New York restaurateur **Don McKnight** sounded a bit like a host planning for a dinner party Friday: hoping for the best, and ready to make do if the planned menu goes awry.

He certainly isn't alone among New York's dining entrepreneurs. From **Mario Batali's** Eataly New York by Madison Square Park, to **David Chang's** hip cluster of Asian restaurants in the East Village, to countless high-end expense account spots in the Financial District, many city restaurateurs have had to deal with lost revenue and damage caused by the superstorm Sandy.

McKnight is co-owner of the **Corner Bistro** in Long Island City, which he opened a few months ago with partner Harold Wedick and William O'Donnell. The latter also owns the [original Corner Bistro](#), an iconic bar and pub in the West Village that is known for its burgers, which has been closed since Monday and for which the loss of business was "substantial, because it's a very busy place," McKnight said. He wouldn't put a dollar figure on it, but all three men were working to get it back going. Because there had been warnings about the storm, they were also able to move food that would have been ruined to cold-storage facilities away from the flood zone.

"We're ordering provisions for tomorrow, and if for some reason we can't open, we can deal with that quickly," McKnight told the *Upstart Business Journal*. As for the Long Island City outpost, which is just across the East River from Manhattan, that's been going gangbusters since the storm, and was one of the few restaurants that were open Monday, the day Sandy hit (though it closed early) and Tuesday.

"Our biggest challenges have been getting people to work," said McKnight, who along with Wedick has in some cases been driving employees to and from work to keep business going.