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Creek and road flooding causes trouble for York County residents

GREG GROSS - The York Dispatch The York Dispatch (Pennsylvania)
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Betty Romesburg lived through Hurricane Agnes and when a firefighter advised her to leave her Mount Wolf apartment because of potential flooding Wednesday, she heeded the warning. Romesburg was one of seven residents evacuated to Eagle Fire Co. because of flooding. "You don't wait until later, you just get out," Romesburg said.

The 2.4 inches of rain that fell on the area between approximately 4:30 and 6 p.m. caused a pond along Blossom Drive in East Manchester Township to apparently spill over its banks, said Ryan Brenneman, Eagle's fire chief. The pond is the headwater of Hartman Run, which flows through the town, and Brenneman said a decision was made to attempt evacuate residents who live along the creek. Firefighters used public address systems in fire apparatus and knocked on doors to alert the residents. "All they said was water was coming," said Barbara Craley, who lives in the same South Second Street apartment building as Romesburg. Thirty-eight residents opted to stay at their homes, Brenneman said.

Two feet deep: Romesburg and Craley said they had just finished eating dinner when they left their homes. The dirty dishes would have to wait, they said. David Wiser said flood water in the back yard of his home on Main Street was nearly two feet deep when he and his wife, Shirley Wiser, were evacuated. "I hope it doesn't come in the house," he said. With Shirley Wiser on oxygen, David Wiser said a firefighter told him it was best to get her to the fire station. Evacuees were allowed to return to their homes about 7:30 p.m., Brenneman said.

Stuck at the Wago: Rain that fell Wednesday wreaked havoc on some York County roads. A number of roads were closed because of flooding. High water was reported on East Market Street near the Interstate 83 overpass at the Springettsbury-Spring Garden Township line, causing traffic to snarl.

A roughly two-mile stretch of Starview Road in East Manchester Township was littered with gravel, rocks and small tree limbs. Running water flowed across the road. Brenneman said the local township's emergency management agency will assess damage at the pond and around the township Thursday. Floodwater stranded a group of patrons inside an East Manchester Township social club. Brenneman said 3- to 4-foot-deep floodwater covered Wago Road, all but cutting off access to the Wago Club at 1095 Wago Road. About 40 patrons were inside when flooding started, he said. A Rabbit Transit bus was called to the scene in case patrons had to be shuttled to the fire station, Brenneman said. However, the stranded patrons waited out the water, he said.

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