



Northwest Regional Police Department

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Sam Gatchell - Chief of Police

The Northwest Lancaster County Regional Police received numerous storm related calls for service during the early evening hours Monday, 7 July 2008. Officers on duty found at least 10 locations in West Donegal and Mt. Joy Townships that had roadways flooded. Fallen trees and tree debris resulting from the storm caused additional traffic problems in the 1300 block of Rissermill Rd., 500 block of Campus Rd., and W. Ridge Rd. in the area of Bossler Rd. Officers also found a sink hole developing on Rutts Rd. near Hilltop View Way. Officers estimated that approximately four feet of water was rushing over the roadway at this location. The roadway was closed due to the developing sink hole and high water.

The high water over the roadways reached several feet in depth at numerous locations during the height of the storm. One traffic accident was attributed to the storm related conditions. The vehicle accident on Bossler Rd. was caused by a driver losing control of her vehicle due to water on the roadway. A three year old child suffered a minor injury from the accident. The child was treated at the scene for the injury by personnel from the Elizabethtown Friendship Fire Department.

The thunderstorm, kept police, road crews and firemen busy throughout the evening. Chief Gatchell of the Northwest Regional Police Department expresses gratitude for the help received from the Rheems and Elizabethtown Fire Departments and road department personnel from W. Donegal and Mt. Joy Townships. He feels that the excellent response from these organizations was instrumental in preventing the existing dangerous conditions from becoming worse.

The Northwest Regional Police Department urges motorists not to attempt to drive over roadways that are covered by water. It is difficult to estimate the depth and power of water on a roadway. It takes less than a foot of turbulent waters to sweep a vehicle off the roadway. The best advice is for motorists to find a safe place on high ground, pull their vehicle completely off a roadway and wait out the storm.

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