

# Rain's wrath

## Flooding damages apartments, motel

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There was just too much rainfall," Otwell said.

A gauge at the DPW yard located in the Farmington-Nine Mile area in Farmington registered 3 1/4 inches of rain in four hours, Otwell said. "This is a 40-year rain which is quite rare," he said.

Joe Kozma, an Oakland County drain engineer, said that all drains were operating as designed with no blockage. Drains in southeastern Michigan are usually designed to handle 10-year rains.

**FLOODING IN Farmington Hills** was localized. By comparison, a rain gauge located at San Marino Golf Course on Halsted, north of 11 Mile, recorded only 1 1/4 inches of rain, Costick said.

Initially, the intensity of the storm, had Farmington area officials wondering if it was a "100-year rain."

Hadley's Towing towed some 75 cars from the parking lots of Red Roof Inn in the 10 Mile-Grand River area, and Muirwood and Greenhill apartments in Farmington Hills, as well as Jamestown apartments in Farmington.

"Almost every car at the Red Roof Inn has been taken out," Anna Naumovski, a Hadley's towing employee said Monday morning. "They (the wrecker drivers) never went to sleep last night."

Water level in some Muirwood Apartments was four feet high, Naumovski said. Likewise, Costick estimated the water level at Red Roof Inn Motel to be three feet high in some places. The water line was below the window sills of the ground floor motel rooms.

Motel customers with rooms on the ground floor apparently were awakened at 3 a.m. by motel management and instructed to move to the second floor.

In October 1981, motel guests complained that they had not received adequate notification. At that time, guests were evacuated by boat or hydraulic lift.

SOME 52 ROOMS in the 109-room, two-building unit at the Red Roof Inn in Farmington Hills were affected Monday, said Beth Shannon, public relations spokesman for the Columbus-based motel chain. Water level hit two to two and a half feet, Shannon said.

It's too early to determine

whether or not there will be another lawsuit, she said. The motel continues to operate.

In March 1982, attorneys for the motel chain filed two lawsuits seeking a minimum of \$3 million for damages and lost revenue caused by the flood of Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 in Farmington Hills.

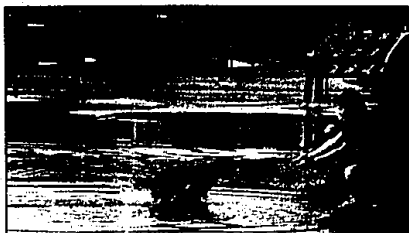
The rain forced the motel to close one and a half months for repair, including all new electrical wiring and telephone lines on the ground level.

Some 200 Muirwood apartment units were water-damaged, said Ron Hall, president of the management company. He said only two apartments had three feet of water.

The complex has no flood insurance to cover belongings or temporary accommodations, Hall said.

"There's nothing you can do when you get a 100 year rainfall," Hall said. "Some residents are relocating to other units. For others, living accommodations are up to them."

Hall expected the carpeting to be pulled and the apartments sanitized by Tuesday.



Mike Monak, who lives in the Grand River/10 Mile area, plays with his dog, Nikki, in a flooded roadway.



Workers prepare to put up barricades and signs following a flood Monday morning.



Traffic moves slowly through about a foot of water on Eight Mile between Farmington and Gill roads.

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