

Kajang hit by flash floods

STANDSTILL: Three-hour-long rainfall wrecks havoc, brings traffic to a standstill

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THE town centre and nearby areas here were temporarily crippled late yesterday afternoon, affecting thousands after flash floods struck: causing cars to be swept away and traffic to come to a standstill.

The commercial centre of this town, famed for its *satay*, was submerged under water, as high as 1m for several hours, after a downpour, which began at 3pm.

The increased water volume caused nearby Sungai Langat and Sungai Semenyih to burst their banks.

The affected areas were Semenyih town, near the road to Bangi Lama, as well as parts of Kajang town, which included Pasar Besar Kajang, Jalan Sg Jelok, Jalan Kg Sg Kantan, Jalan Semenyih-Kajang, Jalan Kelapa, Jalan Bukit and Jalan Reko, among others.

The submerged roads caused total gridlock on roads heading to the town centre.

State Fire and Rescue Department assistant operations director Mohd Sani Harul said they began receiving calls from the public at 3.51pm. "Fourteen firefighters and four volunteers from the Kajang and Cheras stations arrived at the areas in 10 minutes."

Sani said nine residents, all women and senior citizens, had to be rescued after water levels rose quickly.

"When we got there, the water was at chest level," Sani said.

Shoppers at Plaza Metro Kajang, in the heart of town, were dumbfounded to see water entering the building.



Cars stranded along Jalan Hentian 4 during **flash floods** in Kajang, yesterday late afternoon.

As water levels in the rivers passed the dangerous mark, hundreds of shops and homes in the area were forced to close and move their goods and belongings to higher ground.

Traffic reports stated that the floods had also affected several small lanes, all closed to traffic.

Kajang police chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Rashid Abdul Wahab said dozens of cars were stranded in the floods while some were swept away.

The rain stopped at 6pm and water levels in Kajang town began receding soon after.



Taxi drivers getting a helping hand as they attempt to **push their cars** away during the torrential rain. Nanyang Siang Pau pic