



Aerial view of vehicles trapped in the flood waters in Johor Baru yesterday. — NST picture by Amran Hamid

Close call for despatch rider in flood waters

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JOHOR BARU: A 33-year-old despatch rider clung to a telephone pole for dear life when he was caught in a three-metre deep flash flood at Kampung Ungku Mohsin.

Zawawi Elias was approaching Jalan Tampoi when he was swamped by the rapidly rising water. Lucky for him, the staff of a nearby luxury car distributor saw him struggling in the water, which had reached the raised ground of the company premises.

"We found a strong rubber hose to use as a lifeline to pull Zawawi to safety. We were just in time too.

"He told us that his hands had grown numb and he couldn't hold on much longer," said Lulus Motor Enterprise branch manager Jamaludin Majid.

He added that half-an-hour of heavy rain was enough to turn the Jalan Tampoi stretch at Kampung Ungku Mohsin into a river.

He hoped the authorities would do something about the situation soon.

A shaken Zawawi said he did not realise the water would rise so high so fast.

"By the time I was in the middle of the road I had nowhere to go.

"The drains on both sides of the road had overflowed, cutting off the entry roads.

"I tried to reach the higher ground at the junction but I fell off the motorcycle into the water."

A spokesman for the State Fire and Rescue Department said three flood-prone spots in the Johor Baru district were affected by flash floods during the violent thunderstorm which lasted about an hour.



A visibly shaken Zawawi Elias thanking his rescuer Azrafi Azib (left).