

People trapped in elevators quickly brought to safety

Firefighters rescue woman in seventies

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Two people were trapped in elevators and required assistance from the Milton Fire Department when the power went out just after 4 p.m. Thursday.

Both calls came to the fire department just before 4:30 p.m.

One incident occurred at a Millside Drive apartment building, where a woman in her seventies was heading to the basement of the building when the power went out.

Captain Jim Finn said when firefighters pried open the doors, they found the elevator had stopped between the basement and first floor.

About three feet of the top of the elevator was visible from the first floor, Capt. Finn said.

"We sent two fellas down. We were in contact with (the woman) all the time," he said, adding that the elevator became quite humid.

Firefighters crawled through the portion of the elevator above the first floor and boosted the woman up through the narrow space.

An ambulance was on standby — because of the woman's age — but wasn't required.

"She's an old farm lady, so she's pretty tough," Capt. Finn said.

The entire rescue took about 20 minutes.

The second incident was at the two-storey plaza at Derry Road and Bronte Street, where a woman was trapped.

Acting Captain Paul Hollingshead said the woman was calm when firefighters arrived and maintained her composure as fire personnel called and waited for an elevator technician.

Within a half hour the doors were opened.

"She stepped out and was very happy," Acting Capt. Hollingshead said, explaining firefighters often call technicians to open elevator doors — instead of prying them open — to prevent damage.

Besides these two incidents and a flood of calls reporting fire and carbon monoxide alarms going off Thursday night, it was pretty much business as usual for the Milton Fire Department.

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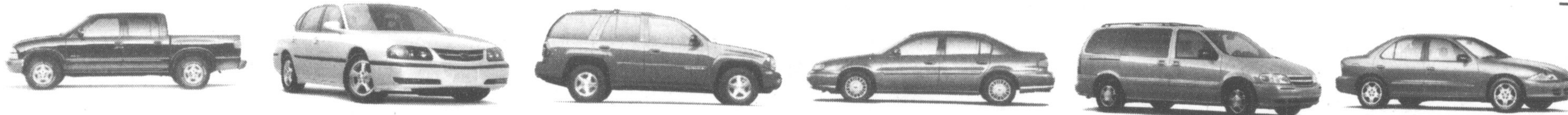
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