

Storm tears through county

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COLUMBIA COUNTY— A series of powerful storms ripped through Columbia County Friday afternoon leaving downed power lines, tree limbs in roadways, flooded basements and lightning strikes in their wake.

The storms were due to a slow-moving cold front that stalled over the area and interacted with the “deep moisture” in place, according to the National Weather Service.

Claverack may have been the worst hit in the county. A state of emergency was declared there Friday evening.

Claverack resident Laurie Nicholson, speaking to the Register-Star via cell phone, said that her neighborhood had suffered quite a bit of damage.

“The devastation here is intense,” she said. “On our property three giant trees are down.”

She said her power had been out for several hours as of 5 p.m.

According to the National Grid Web site there were 4,031 households without power in the county. Power was expected to be restored by midnight Saturday.

County 911 received numerous calls for downed power lines and tree limbs in roadways across the county.

On Route 9H/23 in Claverack, four Greene County women were trapped in their car for nearly an hour after a tree and part of a power pole fell on their Cadillac. The women were returning home after a round of golf in Copake and had pulled over due to the intense rain when the tree fell, bringing down a power pole and lines with it. No one was hurt in the incident.

In Germantown, a basement flooded in a Northern Boulevard home as did Wasabi Restaurant in Hudson.

Flooding was reported on Route 66 as well and on Route 9G near the entrance to Olana where two-foot deep floodwaters had at least one vehicle stalled.

Numerous lightning strikes were also reported.

In Stuyvesant Falls a lightning strike set a home’s attached garage on fire. It was quickly extinguished by the town’s fire company with very little damage.

Friday’s storms come on the heels of last month’s massive flooding in the county that caused a preliminary estimate of \$4.3 million in damage.

More showers are expected Saturday, some possibly heavy. But by Monday the weather should begin to clear.



A Cadillac that was occupied by four women from Greene County who were returning home after a round of golf in Copake, sits with a large tree still on the roof off Route 9H/23 in Claverack Friday, another casualty of the fierce storms that tore through the area.
(Robert Ragaini/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)



Columbia County EMS Coordinator P.J. Keeler, en route to a call in southern Claverack, was stopped on Spook Rock Road by downed power poles.
(Robert Ragaini/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)



Rising runoff on Route 9G near the entrance to Olana claimed this car that stalled in the two-foot deep floodwaters.
(Robert Ragaini/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)