



## FATHER'S DAY FLOOD

# **‘We were trapped’: Man details experience as Fairmont apartment building flooded, collapsed**

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FAIRMONT, W.Va. (WBOY) — [Heavy rain and severe flooding wreaked havoc in Fairmont and Marion County over Father’s Day weekend](#), which even resulted in the [partial collapse of a local apartment building](#). 12 News spoke with a man who talked about how he was trapped inside as the building flooded, and how two good Samaritans helped him and another woman escape.

Van Clark didn’t live in the Fairmont Village Apartments; he was just visiting for Father’s Day when the building started to flood, making the day one he said he’ll never forget. He told 12 News that he and another woman were on the ground floor when water started pouring in quickly, prompting him to break a nearby window.

“It wouldn’t have been a couple of seconds before we’d have been submerged and dead without thinking smart enough to break that window out just to dissipate the water enough for us to survive,” Clark said. “Window wouldn’t come up, I literally had to break it. [...] We were trapped.”

Clark said that when he broke the window, the water level dropped just below neck level.

“The lady couldn’t swim. She’s floating on her back, and I’m holding on to her, making sure she doesn’t go under,” Clark said.

## **Fairmont Village Apartments owner releases statement following partial collapse**

At that point, the ceiling started to collapse, according to Clark. He told 12 News that right at that time, two neighbors, Joshua Brogan and Bryce Trimble, arrived at the window to help him and the woman escape.