A RECORD RAIN

Flash flooding strands residents, closes roads in Lafayette Parish

Cajun firefighters from Laffitte, left, and Bay oil helping Mary Frances get to her home in the flooded Bay Bluff neighborhood following Thursday’s heavy rain. Laffitte and state have the best of the neighborhood to rescue residents stranded in their homes.

A record-breaking downpour stranded residents and motorists in Lafayette Parish on Thursday, with the worst of the storms hitting about 2:30 p.m. and the worst of the flooding hitting Carencro.

Kent Kuyper, a senior forecaster for the National Weather Service in Lake Charles, said Lafayette Parish saw 1.58 inches of rainfall.

The previous record was set in 1910, with 1.50 inches.

The Carencro Fire Department made more than 20 water rescues by boat, with displaced residents being transported to the Carencro Community Center, said Carencro Police Chief David Anderson.

With some roads and railways still flooded at 5:30 p.m., Anderson asked motorists to stay off the roads until the water subsides to prevent vehicles from pushing more water into homes and businesses.

“You do not know how deep the water is, and your car will become stalled in high water,” he warned.