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Fire official urges fixes at recreation area

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The Amity Township supervisors were told Wednesday night that preventive safety measures should be taken at the township's Monocacy Hill Recreation Area.

Monarch Fire Company Assistant Chief Robert Kline told the supervisors that the 428-acre property's rocks and slopes make access extremely difficult for emergency vehicles and personnel.

"We answered a call and the rocks made it almost impossible to get to the location where there was a burning tree," Kline said. "We were able to make our equipment reach but better access is what's really needed. It's something which should be addressed and the sooner the better."

The township had been dealing with concerns from conservation advocates about what clearing some of the property's pathways would do to its natural character.

"Everybody knows the debate that's been going up there," supervisors Chairman Bob Yanos said. ""We have to move forward in making the property as safe as we reasonably can."

The supervisors directed public works foreman Ali Howell-Clarke to begin working on the property.

- By Dan Andrews