

Amity Township bridge closure prompts firetruck relocation

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By Greta Cuyler
Reading Eagle

Despite the temporary closure of the Main Street bridge in Amity Township, residents should see no change in the Monarch Fire Company's response times, fire Chief Brian D. Gabel said Monday.

The fire company has moved three trucks to a temporary location north of the creek near Route 422 and Limekiln Road.

"We have two trucks at our station in Monocacy, so if something happens on that side of the creek, we have people who can respond," Gabel said. "And we also have trucks at the other location, so if something happens on that side, people will be called to that station."

The Main Street bridge is a major link between routes 422 and 724 that firetrucks typically use to get from Monarch's firehouse near Monocacy Station to calls north of Monocacy Creek.

The bridge work is expected to be done by the end of August, so the Daniel Boone School District won't have to reroute buses.

The Main Street bridge was built in 1932. It is 61 feet long, 23 feet wide and has an average daily traffic of 3,686 vehicles.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation began the \$708,000 bridge repair last Tuesday.

Crews are replacing the open steel grate deck on the single-span steel-I-beam bridge with a concrete filled steel grate deck.

During construction, Main Street will remain closed. The posted detour directs motorists to Monocacy Creek Road, Route 422, River Bridge Road and Route 724.

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