

# Deadly flooding in China worsens as rescues and evacuations intensify

## Heavy rain and high water levels in China's northeastern rivers are threatening cities downstream, prompting the evacuation of thousands

BEIJING — Thousands of people threatened by storm-swollen rivers were evacuated in China's northeast on Friday while areas on the outskirts of Beijing cleared debris from flooding that wrecked roads, knocked out power and left neighborhoods in shambles.

China is struggling with record-breaking rains in some areas while others suffer scorching summer heat and drought that threatens crops. Flooding near Beijing and in neighboring Hebei province this week killed at least 22 people.

Resident Xie Xin in the western outskirts of Beijing said the floodwaters had risen so fast that his family house was submerged in less than 10 minutes.

"Objects can be replaced," said Xie, 25, as he moved a desk. "But neighbors that have gone missing, this is what hits me the most."

In the northeast, some 54,000 people were forced out of their homes around Harbin, the biggest city in Heilongjiang province, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It said rescue crews in 81 boats were evacuating residents.

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