

Texas Has Deadly floodwaters

Some parts of the state have seen more than a foot of rain this month alone. Storms have killed at least 17 people in Texas and Oklahoma since the weekend, and more than a dozen are still missing.

Across the Houston area there were 6 hours of relentless rainfall flooded streets and highways, causing thousands to abandon their cars and trucks, and thousands of homes have been damaged, reports CBS News correspondent Vicente Arenas.

"We've had ten days two weeks of steady rain. The grounds were completely saturated, and there's really been no place for the water to go," Houston Mayor Annise Parker said. 911 operators fielded nearly 2,300 calls, many of them from stranded drivers needing help from first responders. Two people are missing after their rescue boat capsized, and 66-year-old Dennis Callahan died of a heart attack while helping a woman push her car, which had stalled in the water. He was only a block away from his home."

Some 4,000 homes were damaged in the flooding. One of the hardest hit areas was the Houston community of Meyerland.

With the threat of more severe weather on the way, Texas' governor has issued an emergency declaration for Houston and is warning drivers not to take any chances.

A frantic search continues for nearly a dozen people ranging in age from 4 to 81.

Crews combed the shoreline of the Blanco River by land and air Tuesday, surrounded by mangled reminders of Saturday's deadly storm.

Three families from Corpus Christi were staying in a Wimberley vacation home that was washed away by the floodwaters. Laura McComb, her 6-year-old son Andrew and 4-year-old daughter Leighton are among those still missing.

"She told me around 11 o'clock that water had started coming in," her sister Julie Shields said. McComb was texting with Shields during the storm, and then the phone rang. "One o'clock in the morning she called me. She said, 'I'm in a house, I'm floating down the river. Tell Mom and Dad 'I love you' and pray,'" Shields said.

Macomb's husband, Jonathan, survived, with a broken sternum, rib and punctured lung.

Tuesday, emergency response crews found two people alive.

National Weather Service forecasts called for a 20 to 40 percent chance of thunderstorms through the rest of the week in Houston, and more storms were also in store for Central Texas.

