

# Deadly storms hit US north-west

**High winds and heavy rains have battered the north-west US, killing at least seven people and leaving tens of thousands without power.**

Winds of 90mph (145km/h) and up to 11in (28cm) of rain in Oregon and Washington state left behind flooded homes, fallen trees and washed-out roads.



Large areas have been covered with muddy water

One Oregon town had to be evacuated after it was cut off by a landslide.

The storm has weakened and moved north but a state of emergency and flood warnings are in place in both states.

"The brunt of the storm has passed," said Maj Mike Braibish, public information officer for the Oregon National Guard.

"We are transitioning from the response phase into the recovery phase."

## Highway closed

The storms started over the weekend, and winds along the coast were equal to Category 1 hurricane winds.

"I've never seen anything this bad here," said John McSwain, a police chief in Woodinville, Washington, who has lived in the suburbs of Seattle for 18 years.



Washington's largest highway was covered with 10ft (3m) of muddy water and is expected to stay closed for days.

In Seattle, where the storm was less severe, 4in (10cm) of rain fell during a 24-hour period on Monday.

Vernonia, Oregon, a small city in the west of the state, was flooded after it received 11in (28cm) of rain.

National Guard troops used inflatable rafts to evacuate residents after the town was largely cut off by landslides.

Nearly 75,000 customers lost power in Washington at the height of the storm.

In Oregon, Portland-based Pacific Power said about 36,000 customers had no electricity.

Three of the reported deaths happened in Washington, where one man died in a building hit by a mudslide.

Another died when a tree fell on him, and the third died when an electrical outage shut off his oxygen equipment, officials said.

In Oregon, a 90-year-old woman died after suffering a heart attack as she was evacuated, and a lorry driver died after his vehicle was swept away by floodwaters.

Two hikers were also found dead after an avalanche in the Cascade Mountains, sheriff's officials said.

**Are you in the area? Have you been affected by the storms? You can send us your experiences using the form below.**

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# German police find dead children

A mother has been placed in psychiatric care in the north German state of Schleswig-Holstein on suspicion of killing her five young children.



Police found the bodies of five children aged between three and nine, who had suffered "violent" deaths, at a house in the village of Darry.

"As far as currently known, the motive is to be sought in the mother's mental illness," they said in a statement.

The 31-year-old has been detained and sent to a psychiatric facility.

Last year, a German woman was jailed for killing eight of her own babies.

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## Gun attack at US shopping centre

**A gunman has opened fire in a shopping centre in the US state of Nebraska, wounding at least one person.**

Local television reported an elderly man had been shot in the attack. Other reports said as many as five were hurt.

Witnesses said a man was arrested. One report said he was dressed in camouflage clothing and was found hiding under a bench.

Police sealed the exits to the Westroads Mall in Omaha but would not say whether anyone had been detained.

Paramedics were seen ferrying stretchers into the building; at least one person was stretchered out.

### Customers hid

There have been differing accounts of the incident.

According to one report, the gunman shot people at random from a balcony in the shopping centre.

Others said the shooting appeared to have taken place in the Von Maur department store.

Keith Fidler, a Von Maur employee, said he heard a burst of five to six shots followed by 15 to 20 more shots.

A worker from another shop said customers and employees were huddled in a storeroom.

"All we know was people were running and screaming down the hallway by Von Maur saying there was a shooting, and then [police] locked us down," she said.

Earlier in the day, President George W Bush had been in Omaha for a fundraiser, but he left the city before the shooting occurred.



Police have sealed off the Westroads Mall shopping centre