

15 dead after heavy rain, floods in China coal region

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There has been unseasonably heavy rain and flooding in north China's Shanxi province.

At least 15 people have died during unseasonably heavy rain and flooding in north China's Shanxi province earlier this month, local

officials said Tuesday, after the normally dry region received three months' rain in one week.

The flooding hit the coal-rich landlocked region during a nationwide energy crunch, and after record floods killed more than 300 people in central Henan province in July.

At least 60 [coal mines](#) in the province—one of China's top coal-producing regions—had temporarily closed due to the floods, but now all but four have returned to normal operation, local emergency management official Wang Qirui said at a press conference.

Wang said around 19,000 buildings were destroyed by the [extreme weather](#), with 18,000 others "seriously damaged".

"Fifteen people died due to the disaster, and three people remain missing," he added.

At least 1.75 million residents across the province have been affected by the floods, with 120,000 safely evacuated, according to Wang.

Photos published Tuesday by local state newspaper Shanxi Evening News showed traffic police carrying schoolchildren on their backs while wading through waist-deep water after multiple vehicles got trapped.

Shanxi received more than three times the average monthly rainfall for October in just five days last week, with the [provincial government](#) saying precipitation had broken records in multiple localities.



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Several regions across China have been hit by unprecedented flooding this year.

Thousands were evacuated in the Hubei and Sichuan provinces this summer because of torrential rain.

And more than 300 people were killed in central China's Henan province last month after record downpours—a year's worth of rain in three days.

Experts say freak weather events such as heavy floods and punishing droughts are becoming increasingly common because of climate change.

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