

# Heavy rain hits northern Japan, 200,000 urged to evacuate

August 4 2022

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Omaki Bridge, which connects to the town of Iide, Yamagata Prefecture, collapsed after a river flooded.

Bridges collapsed and rivers burst their banks as heavy rain lashed northern Japan on Thursday, with 200,000 residents urged to evacuate as

authorities warned of dangerous flooding.

TV footage showed a muddy mass of broken trees swept into a mountainous residential area by the downpours, which broke records in some areas.

Two people have been reported missing, top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

Authorities have warned of an increased risk of landslides and floods.

Public broadcaster NHK said non-compulsory evacuation advisories were issued to 200,000 [residents](#) in five regions: Niigata, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ishikawa and Fukui.

Other TV footage showed homes flooded by an overflowing river and another muddy waterway reaching the height of a bridge.

Some shinkansen [bullet trains](#) were suspended in the affected areas.



Scientists say climate change is intensifying the risk of heavy rain in Japan and elsewhere.

Scientists say [climate change](#) is intensifying the risk of heavy rain in Japan and elsewhere, because a warmer atmosphere holds more water.

Strong [rain](#) in 2021 triggered a devastating landslide in the central resort town of Atami that killed 27 people.

And in 2018, floods and landslides killed more than 200 people in western Japan during the country's annual rainy season.

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