

China blows up dam in eastern province to ease flood risk

20 July 2020



The Guanying temple, a 700-year old structure built on a rock in the Yangtze River in Wuhan, is surrounded by flood water

Chinese authorities blew up part of a dam in eastern Anhui province to relieve flood pressure, local media reported, as heavy rains continue to swell rivers across parts of the country.

Rising waters across central and eastern China have left over 140 people dead or missing, and floods have affected almost 24 million since the start of July, according to the ministry of emergency management

Authorities have adopted measures such as diverting [water](#) into back-up reservoirs to keep levels manageable as major rivers and lakes hit record highs.

In Anhui, a dam on the Chu river was demolished Sunday as [water levels](#) inched close to historic highs.

Local authorities said the action was taken to ensure the safety of people living nearby.

"Affected by continuous downpours and upstream flows, the water level of the Chu River, a tributary of the Yangtze River, has moved from a slow rise to a sharp one," local media said Monday.

The blasting of the dam was expected to reduce the level of the Chu River by around 70 centimetres (28 inches), reported the state-run Global Times.

Chinese media said the released water was being channelled into two downstream storage ponds.

A total of 35 rivers and lakes in Anhui saw high water marks exceed warning levels by Saturday noon—including the Yangtze and Huaihe rivers—reported the official Xinhua news agency.



Dams such as the Xiaolangdi Reservoir in Luoyang, central Henan province, have opened sluice gates to release upstream water pressure

Over the weekend the Three Gorges Dam also opened three floodgates after the water rose more than 15 metres above [flood](#) level.

Last week soldiers erected sandbag flood barriers in a city near China's largest freshwater lake after

the heaviest rainfall in nearly six decades drenched
the Yangtze River basin.

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