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NEWS

How a perfect storm of conditions fueled the deadly Texas floods: 'Many things came together in a terrible way'

By Dani Polo
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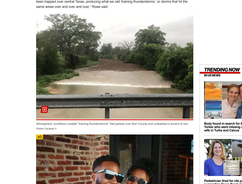
A perfect storm of a slow-moving pocket of moist air, pushed tender and a fifty-year-prone to flash flooding unleashed deadlines left on Texas Hill Country — where more than 50 people have died, according to meteorologists.

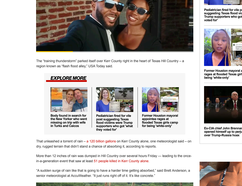
Everything was in "exactly the wrong place" on July 4, Alan Gerard, a recently retired storm specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told USA Today.

The trouble all started with "tropical Storm Barry. The storm made landfall on the eastern coast of Mexico Monday morning, according to FOX 7 Austin meteorologist Amanda Rowe. The storm continued to move northward until it encountered a high-pressure system in central Texas — and stalled.

"Since high pressure has been blocking it from moving away, this moisture, that low-pressure system has been trapped over central Texas, producing what we call training thunderstorms," or storms that hit the same areas over and over and over, Rowe said.



Kerrville, Texas, July 4, 2025. Meteorologist Jonathan Lindsey tracked "training thunderstorms" that pelted Kerr County and unleashed a torrent of rain. Texas Parks & Wildlife



The "training thunderstorms" pelted Kerr County right in the heart of Texas Hill Country — a region known as "flash flood alley," USA Today said.

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That unleashed a torrent of rain — 12.50 Inch gallons on Alan County alone, one meteorologist said — on dry, rugged terrain that didn't stand a chance at absorbing it, according to reports.

More than 12 inches of rain was dumped in Hill County over several hours Friday — leading to the once-in-a-generation event that saw at least 27 people killed in Kerr County alone.

"A sudden surge of rain like that is going to have a harder time getting absorbed," said Brett Anderson, a senior meteorologist at AccuWeather. "It just runs right off if it's like concrete."

Texas Hill Country is arid and dry, making it hard to absorb heavy rainfall. Getty Images

The area had already been in a drought, compounding the problem. The deep hills also makes it so the water moves extremely fast along the dry land.

"As is often the case with the worst disasters, many things came together in a terrible way," said Robert Hanson, a meteorologist and writer with Yale Climate Connections.

Hatch Smart, a hydrologist and civil engineer at the University of Texas at San Antonio, described Hill Country as "a very unforgiving landscape" with steep terrain, shallow soil, so the water shoots off quickly and the shallow creeks can rise fast "at a rate of no. The consequence."

Those unusually wet conditions in the dry and extreme dry, craggy conditions on the ground created the ideal circumstances for what experts call a "force never" in the Guadalupe River.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott at a press conference addressing deadly Texas floods. Facebook/governorgregabbott

A flood wave "is far from in dissemblance to a crest and its subsequent recession caused by precipitation, snowmelt, dam breaks, or reservoir releases," according to the National Weather Service.

"The Gulf is warmer than normal and dissipates moving through that low can focus thunderstorm activity on a particular area," he said.

With Post wires

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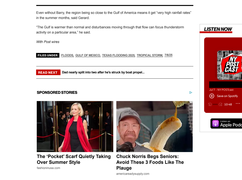
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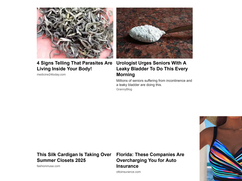
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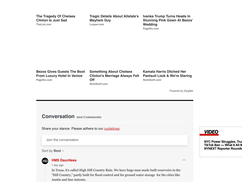
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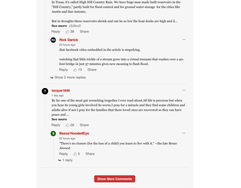
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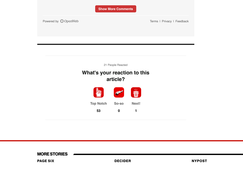
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