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Texas floods 2025

Texas's Camp Mystic confirms 27 children and counsellors died in floods

Camp says the search continues for missing people while life-threatening flooding still remains a threat

Texas floods - latest updates



Officials ride a boat as they assist with a recovery effort at Camp Mystic along the Guadalupe River after a flash flood swept through the area in Hunt, Texas.

Camp Mystic, the girls summer camp on the banks of the Guadalupe River in Texas, has confirmed that 27 children and counsellors died in the flash floods that have wreaked devastation on the area since Friday.

"Our hearts are broken alongside our families that are enduring this unimaginable tragedy. We are praying for them constantly," a statement on the camp website read.

The search continued for missing people, it said, adding: "We ask for your continued prayers, respect and privacy for each of our families affected."

The tragic news surfaced as Texas authorities confirmed at least 82 people had died amid the flash flooding, a figure that is expected to rise as more rain threatens to deluge the region.

Camp Mystic is a nondenominational Christian institution that has hosted the children of some of Texas's political elite over its 99-year history.

Former first lady Laura Bush was a camp counselor there, and past camp attendees included the daughters of former US president Lyndon B Johnson and the former Texas governor John Connally.

"Our hearts our broken by the devastation from the floods in Wimberley and the tragic loss of so many lives - including a precious little Hunt cousin, along with several friends' little girls," said Tavia Hunt, wife of the Kansas City Chiefs owner, Clark Hunt, in an Instagram post.

A Camp Mystic counselor, Chloe Childress, also died in the flooding, a representative of her high school confirmed on Sunday. Childress was remembered as compassionate and known for helping others feel, "feel safe, valued, and brave", a statement to a local ABC affiliate said.

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The number of missing people from other nearby camps has not been released, as officials said life-threatening flooding remained a threat as crews continued an urgent search for people still missing.

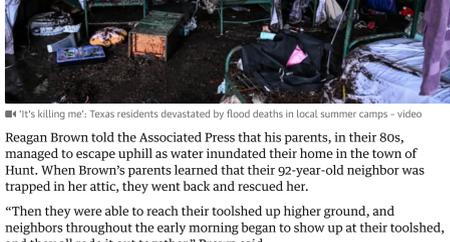
The Guadalupe River rose 26ft (8 meters) in 45 minutes in Friday's pre-dawn hours, after a downpour north of San Antonio. The sheriff of Kerr county, Larry Leitha, has said at least 68 people were found dead in an area known as the Hill Country. There are several summer camps there. At least 10 other deaths were reported in the counties of Travis, Burnet, Kendall, Tom Green and Williamson, local officials have said.



Guardian graphic

The Texas governor, Greg Abbott, warned that additional rounds of heavy rains lasting into Tuesday could produce more perilous flooding, especially in places where the ground is already saturated.

Kerr residents were clearing mud from their destroyed properties and saving what belongings they could. Some said the heroism of the neighbors was all that saved them, as authorities faced questions about whether enough warnings about the downpour were issued, how many actually received them and whether enough was done to prepare for the rain.



"It's killing me": Texas residents devastated by flood deaths in local summer camps - video

Reagan Brown told the Associated Press that his parents, in their 80s, managed to escape uphill as water inundated their home in the town of Hunt. When Brown's parents learned that their 92-year-old neighbor was trapped in her attic, they went back and rescued her.

"Then they were able to reach their toolshed up higher ground, and neighbors throughout the early morning began to show up at their toolshed, and they all rode it out together," Brown said.

A video posted on X showed girls from Camp Mystic being evacuated and singing the hymns Pass It On and Amazing Grace as they crossed a bridge over the Guadalupe River, which was still flowing fiercely.

Local officials have already faced questions about what kind of flood warning systems and evacuation plans were in place in the county. Judge Rob Kelly, the county's top elected official, told reporters that "nobody saw this coming".

The county had considered a tornado warning-style siren in the past, but Kelly said the public had "reeled at the cost".

"There's going to be a lot of finger-pointing, a lot of second-guessing and Monday morning quarterbacking," said the Republican US representative Chip Roy, whose district includes Kerr county, according to the Associated Press. "There's a lot of people saying 'why' and 'how', and I understand that."

The US Department of Homeland Security responded to criticism of warning systems on Sunday on social media by saying mainstream media were "lying" and that the National Weather Service issued timely warnings.

Donald Trump on Sunday signed a major disaster declaration for Kerr county, which is meant to unlock federal resources meant to help local officials. He said he would probably visit on Friday, a week after the deadly flash flood, saying to go earlier might impede search and recovery efforts.

Associated Press contributed reporting

At this dangerous moment for dissent. I hope you appreciated this article. Before you close this tab, I wanted to ask if you could support the Guardian at this crucial time for journalism in the US. When the military is deployed to quell overwhelmingly peaceful protest, when elected officials of the opposing party are arrested or handcuffed, when student activists are jailed and deported, and when a wide range of civic institutions - non-profits, law firms, universities, news outlets, the arts, the civil service, scientists - are targeted and penalized by the federal government, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that our core freedoms are disappearing before our eyes - and democracy itself is slipping away. In any country on the cusp of authoritarianism, the role of the press as an engine of scrutiny, truth and accountability becomes increasingly critical. At the Guardian, we see it as our job not only to report on the suppression of dissenting voices, but to make sure those voices are heard. Not every news organization sees its mission this way - indeed, some have been pressured by their corporate and billionaire owners to avoid antagonizing this government. I am thankful the Guardian is different. Our only financial obligation is to fund independent journalism in perpetuity: we have no ultrarich owner, no shareholders, no corporate bosses with the power to overrule or influence our editorial decisions. Reader support is what guarantees our survival and safeguards our independence - and every cent we receive is reinvested in our work. The Guardian's global perspective helps contextualize and illuminate what we are experiencing in this country. That doesn't mean we have a single viewpoint, but we do have a shared set of values. Humanity, curiosity and honesty guide us, and our work is rooted in solidarity with ordinary people and hope for our shared future. It has never been more urgent, or more perilous, to pursue reporting in the US that holds power to account and counters the spread of misinformation - and at the Guardian we make our journalism free and accessible to all. Can you spare just 37 seconds now to support our work and protect the free press? We value whatever you can spare, but a recurring contribution makes the most impact, enabling greater investment in our most crucial, fearless journalism. As our thanks to you, we can offer you some great benefits - including seeing far fewer fundraising messages like this. We've made it very quick to set up, so we hope you'll consider it. Thank you.

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