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Death toll rises and thousands flee homes as floods hit China

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At least 25 people have been killed and seven are missing in the provincial capital, Zhengzhou. The provincial authorities issued its highest level of weather warning. A year's worth of rain — 640mm — fell in just three days.

About 200, 000 people have been moved to shelters, state media Xinhua reported on Wednesday, citing local government. The rainfall flooded the city's subway system, collapsed roads, and prompted the suspension of inbound flights.

The casualties are expected to rise as rescue work continues in the days to come. Chinese media call the rainfall "unseen in the last 1, 000 years". Some worry that given the scale of the damage, the post-disaster reconstruction will be particularly challenging for one of the most populous provinces in China.

Floods are common in China's rainy season, but their impact has worsened over the decades, due in part to China's rapid urbanisation

and the global climate crisis.

Extreme weather events have occurred in many parts of China this summer. Hundreds of thousands of residents in Sichuan province had to be relocated this month due to floods and landslides.

Liu Junyan, of Greenpeace International, told Chinese media: "Because of the highly concentrated population, infrastructure and economic activity, the exposure and vulnerability of climate hazards are higher in urban areas. Cities are an important sector of global greenhouse gas emissions, which account for about 70% of the total emissions."

今日导读

从 7 月 17 日开始，河南省遭遇极端强降雨，郑州市多个气象观测站日降雨量突破历史极值。受暴雨和洪水影响，多条河流决堤，地铁系统被淹没，成千上万的人被迫撤离家园。截至 7 月 28 日 12 时，暴雨已导致 73 人遇难。不仅是河南，今年，中国极端天气频发，许多地区遭遇了洪涝、山体滑坡等自然灾害。为什么极端天气会频繁发生？我们又应该如何面对？让我们和 Natasha 老师一起走进今天的文章。

带着问题听讲解

如何理解 concentrated 这个词？

为什么近几十年来洪水造成的影响不断恶化？

为什么城市地区更容易暴露在气候危害之下？

正文

Death toll rises and thousands flee homes as floods hit China

洪水袭击中国大地：死亡人数上升，无数人背井离乡

Days of torrential rain and massive flooding have hit China's Henan province, bursting the banks of rivers, overwhelming dams and the public transport system and forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes. wechat: one two two five zero zero one six six eight .

在中国河南省，连日的暴雨和泛滥的洪水造成了河流决堤，大坝和公共交通系统被淹没，成千上万的人被迫撤离家园。

At least 25 people have been killed and seven are missing in the provincial capital, Zhengzhou. The provincial authorities issued its highest level of weather warning. A year's worth of rain — 640mm — fell in just three days.

河南省会郑州市至少 25 人死亡，7 人失踪。河南省有关部门发布了最高级别的天气预警。郑州年降水量是 640 毫米，而这次三天的雨量就达到了这一数值。

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周三，中国官方媒体新华社援引当地政府的消息称，约 20 万人已被转移到避难处。降雨导致了该城市的地铁系统被淹没，道路坍塌，进入郑州的航班处于暂停运营的状态。

The casualties are expected to rise as rescue work continues in the days to come. Chinese media call the rainfall "unseen in the last 1,000 years". Some worry that given the scale of the damage, the post-disaster reconstruction will be particularly challenging for one of the most populous provinces in China.

未来几天，救援工作将继续进行，伤亡人数也预计有所上升。中国媒体称，这次降雨是“千年一遇的”。一些人担心，考虑到本次受灾的严重性，河南省（中国人口最多的省份之一）的灾后重建工作将极具挑战性。

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洪水在中国多雨的季节里很常见，但是几十年来，其造成的影响不断恶化，部分原因是中国的快速城市化和全球的气候危机。

Extreme weather events have occurred in many parts of China this summer. Hundreds of thousands of residents in Sichuan province had to be relocated this month due to floods and landslides.

今年夏天，中国的许多地方都发生了极端天气事件。本月，四川省数十万居民因洪水和山体滑坡而不得不搬迁。

Liu Junyan, of Greenpeace International, told Chinese media: "Because of the highly concentrated population, infrastructure and economic activity, the exposure and vulnerability of climate hazards are higher in urban areas. Cities are an important sector of global greenhouse gas emissions, which account for about 70% of the total emissions."

国际绿色和平组织的刘俊彦告诉中国媒体：“由于人口、基础设施和经济活动高度集中，城市地区更容易暴露在气候灾害之下，也更脆弱。城市排放的温室气体约占全球总排放量的 70%，已经成为全球温室气体排放的一大来源。”

重点词汇

death toll

（在灾难中）死亡的人数

例句：The death toll from COVID-19 in the United States approaches 500,000.

flee

/fli:/

v. (尤指因危险或恐惧而) 逃跑, 躲避

例句: The refugees fled to other countries because they wanted to flee from wars, famine and persecution. (一些难民想要逃避战争、饥荒和迫害, 因此逃到了其他国家。)

torrential

/tɔ:'ren.jəl/

adj. (雨) 倾泻而下的, 如注的

例句: wechat: one two two five zero zero one six six eight .

相关词汇: torrent (n. 急流, 洪流; 连珠炮似的话语)

例句: The rain is falling in torrents. (急流, 洪流)

例句: He was met with a torrent of criticism. (他遭到了一连串的批评。)

搭配短语: a torrential storm

burst

/bɜ:'st/

v. 河流决堤; 使.....破裂

例句: She burst the balloon. (使.....破裂)

例句: They burst the door open and rushed in. (使.....破裂)

例句: Monsoon flooding caused the river to burst its banks. (河流决堤)

overwhelm

/,oʊ.və'welɪm/

v. 淹没, 吞没; (强烈的感情) 充溢, 使难以承受; (问题等) 不可解

决，压垮

例句：I'm overwhelmed with work. ((问题等) 不可解决，压垮)

例句：People were overwhelmed with grief. ((强烈的感情) 充溢，使难以承受)

evacuate

/ɪ'væk.ju.ert/

v. (从危险的地方) 撤出，撤离

英文释义：to move out of a place because of danger

例句：The fire alarm forced staff to evacuate the building.

issue

/ˈɪʃ.uː/

v. 发行

词性拓展：issue (n. 问题)

例句：wechat: one two two five zero zero one six six eight .

英文释义：to make a statement or a warning known formally or publicly

搭配短语：to issue a statement

搭配短语：to issue a warning

rainfall

/ˈreɪn.fɑ:l/

n. 降雨；降雨量

相关词汇：rain (n. 雨)

相关词汇：fall (v. 降雨)

例句: Heavy rainfall ruined the match. (下雨)

例句: The average annual rainfall in Zhengzhou is 640 mm. (降雨量)

同义短语: torrential rain (暴雨)

collapse

/kə'ləps/

v. 使倒塌, 使坍塌; 倒塌, 坍塌

例句: Amsterdam, a major European tourist destination, slowly collapsed. (倒塌, 坍塌)

例句: The weight of snow collapsed the roof. (使倒塌, 使坍塌)

prompt

/pra:mpt/

v. 引起, 导致

同义词: cause (导致, 引起)

例句: The news prompted #MeToo movement in China.

inbound

/'in.baʊnd/

adj. 到达的

词根词缀: in- (表示“进入”)

相关词汇: bound (adj. 到达某地的)

搭配短语: an inbound flight from Shanghai

反义词: outbound (adj. 离开某地的)

搭配短语: outbound flights

casualty

/ˈkæʒ.ju.əl.ti/

n. (严重事故或战争中的) 伤亡人员

词义辨析: death toll, casualty

例句: wechat: one two two five zero zero one six six eight .

death toll 强调总体的死亡数字, 而 casualty 强调事故里伤亡的个人, 通常以复数形式出现。

例句: The aim is to reduce road casualties.

reconstruction

/ˌriː.kənˈstrʌk.fən/

n. (对被毁的事物进行的) 重建

词根词缀: re- (表示“再, 又”)

相关词汇: construction (n. 建造)

搭配短语: the post-war reconstruction of Germany

populous

/ˈpɒː.pjə.ləs/

adj. 人口众多的; 人口稠密的

相关词汇: population (n. 人口)

例句: Zhejiang Province is one of the most populous areas in China.

urbanisation

/ˌɜː.bən.əˈzeɪ.fən/

n. 城市化过程

相关词汇: urban (adj. 城市的)

英文释义: the process of making an area more urban

relocate

/ˌriːˈloʊ.kert/

v. (使) 搬迁

相关词汇: evacuate (v. (从危险的地方) 撤出, 撤离)

例句: The residents were relocated to temporary accommodation.

landslide

/'lænd.slaɪd/

n. 山体滑坡, 泥石流

相关词汇: land (n. 土地)

相关词汇: slide (v. 滑行, 滑动)

concentrated

/'kɒn.sən.treɪ.tɪd/

adj. 集中的, 聚集的

相关词汇: concentrate (v. 专注, 集中)

例句: We should concentrate on the task before us.

例句: Most of the country's population is concentrated in the east.

vulnerability

/ˌvʌl.nə.əˈbɪl.ə.ti/

n. 脆弱性, 弱点

相关词汇: vulnerable (adj. 脆弱的, 易受伤害的)

例句: Hippos are uniquely vulnerable to drought.

hazard

/'hæz.əd/

n. 危险, 隐患

搭配短语: a fire hazard

例句: Smoking is a hazard to health.

文化补充: climate hazards 指自然界的一些气候灾害, 比如 hurricanes (n. 飓风), droughts (n. 干旱), flooding (n. 洪水) 等。

account for

数量或比例上占.....

拓展阅读

有关“雨”的各种英文表达

torrential rains 暴雨 / 倾盆大雨

frequent showers 经常性的阵雨

rain cats and dogs 倾盆大雨

persistent rain 持续降雨

heavy rain 大雨

rainfall 降雨

downpour 暴雨

torrential downpour 暴雨

shower 阵雨

monkey's wedding 太阳雨

storm / tempest / rainstorms 暴风雨

thundershower 雷阵雨

drizzle 毛毛雨

河南暴雨成因

此次河南暴雨有雨量大、时间长、短时降雨强的特点。中央气象台首席预报员陈涛解释称，西太平洋副热带高压、大陆高压、台风“烟花”等多种因素共同造成了河南持续特大暴雨过程。

7月20日，陈涛表示：“‘烟花’虽然还没有登陆我国，但其北侧和副热带高压之间形成联通气流，持续向我国黄淮一带输送，在偏东风的影响下，大量水汽从海上向河南一带汇集，再加上河南本地的地势抬升，以及天气系统稳定维持的效应，造成了河南的特大暴雨。”只有等台风“烟花”更靠近后，环流形势出现调整，截断水汽来源，河南的雨才能停。

对流“列车效应”也是导致河南暴雨的原因。“列车效应”是指多个雷雨云团先后经过同一个地点，就像列车的不同车厢先后经过同一铁轨一样，间歇性的短时强降水将最终导致发生局地特大暴雨。

今年极端天气频繁出现，德国锡根大学教授拉米娅·梅萨里-贝克尔表示，极端天气可能会更剧烈、更频繁地发生。人们必须适应气候，完善城市排水系统和气象灾害早期预警系统，确保城市的基础设施能承受各种极端天气。