

U.S. storms claim 45 lives, injure scores

by UPI

MEMPHIS - Storms spawned tornadoes Tuesday night across wide swathes of the U.S. South, killing at least 45 people and injuring nearly 100 more. The deadly twisters were reported in Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee where they trapped 50 people in a retirement home and severely damaged Union University, a shopping mall and a hospital, CNN reported. The death toll included 13 people in Arkansas. At least 24 people died in Tennessee -- three killed when a Memphis warehouse collapsed. At least 30 tornadoes were reported to the Memphis National Weather Service office, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported. Another three people were killed in a mobile home park in Muhlenberg County, Ky., with four other deaths reported in the state, the network said. One death was reported in Alabama, officials said. Matt DeCamp, a spokesman for Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, said rescue workers worked all night. The severe weather also started a fire at a Columbia Gas Natural Gas facility in Green Grove, Tenn. Flames were reported shooting 400-500 feet into the air but the facility was unmanned and there were no injuries, a company spokesman said.

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