

Deadly storm weakens, pushes east

by UPI

CHICAGO -- The storm system responsible for heavy snows in the U.S. midsection and deadly tornadoes the south lost some of its punch Thursday as it moved to the east. In Michigan, officials blamed freezing rain and icy roads near Saline for a car crash in which an 18-year-old high school student died. Snow was forecast to persist over the Northeast -- the last remnant of the powerful, deadly storm, AccuWeather.com reported. In Wisconsin, residents were digging out from a snowstorm that left more than 800 motorists stranded along Interstate 90 south of Madison. Gov. Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency so National Guard troops could help, WISC-TV, Madison, reported. Drivers in the Detroit area experienced treacherous driving conditions on roads that were snow, sleet and slush-covered, WDIV-TV in Detroit reported. Officials said Pontiac had up to 4 inches of slush on the ground. Flooding was reported in parts of Ohio, CNN reported. Up to a foot of snow and wind gusts topping 70 mph were predicted for mountainous regions of the Pacific Northwest. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was crowded Thursday with travelers after a storm canceled more than 1,000 flights Wednesday.

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