

Rain, snow packing 1-2 punch

by UPI

OKLAHOMA CITY -- States in the U.S. midsection began mopping up from deadly storms Friday, while states in line to the Great Lakes braced for spring snows. At least two people died this week, hundreds of homes were damaged and thousands were without power in the wake of violent storms, Oklahoma officials said. Flash flooding and stream flooding closed highways and roads, The Joplin (Mo.) Globe reported. Dozens of people were evacuated. In Arkansas, Benton County absorbed the brunt of flooding, although officials reported no deaths, the Morning News in Bentonville, Ark., reported. A spring storm system tracked toward the western Great Lakes, pushing a cold front east across the eastern states, the Weather Channel reported. Heavy snow was predicted for the eastern Dakotas, through Minnesota and Wisconsin, to Michigan's upper peninsula Friday, with accumulations of 6 to 12 inches likely. Rain storms were expected to affect the Upper Ohio Valley, the Tennessee valley and the Deep South before shifting to eastern states, forecasters said.

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