

England flood peaks due in days

by UPI

LONDON -- Rain-spawned flooding in northwestern England has begun to recede but officials said communities further south would face peak water levels in days. As many as 1 million people have been affected by the worst flooding in modern British history, The Telegraph reported. Communities in seven counties, facing water as deep as 6 feet, lost electricity and fresh water and have been cut off from other areas by the flooding. Emergency officials said at least 10,000 homes have been flooded or are at great risk of being submerged. Officials in Gloucestershire said as many as 50,000 people could be without running water two weeks and it could be a year before some evacuated families are able to move back to their homes, the newspaper said. Tuesday, the British Red Cross announced plans for a fundraising appeal to help the thousands left homeless, the report said. Spokesman Tim Abbott of the Environment Agency told The Telegraph the River Thames was expected to peak further south in Pangbourne, Purley and the Reading area early Wednesday and further along in Berkshire on Thursday.

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