

England flooding claims two lives

by UPI

LONDON -- Flooding in central England was blamed Thursday for the deaths of two men in Tewkesbury who were overcome by fumes from a gas water pump. Police in the town in Gloucestershire said they were also concerned about a 19-year-old man who has been missing since early Saturday morning when waters started to rise, The Telegraph said. Public health concerns rose as a water treatment plant in the county was compromised by flood waters. More than 350,000 people were left without fresh water and Severn Trent Water warned it could be two weeks before supplies are restored, the BBC reported. Further south, the western side of Oxford was engulfed in water Wednesday when the River Thames overflowed its banks and about 150 people were evacuated to a soccer stadium, The Times of London reported. Meanwhile, farmers in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire said the flood damage would last for years with crop losses this year and land damage. Ian Johnston of the National Farmers' Union called the situation "a complete catastrophe," The Telegraph said.

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