

Floods Force More than 100,000 to Flee Homes in Japan



Tokyo, September 10 (RHC)-- Japan has ordered more than 100,000 people to evacuate their homes after torrential rains caused flash floods across the country.

Authorities in the central Tochigi Prefecture called on more than 90,000 residents to evacuate, while another 116,000 were advised to leave their homes, public broadcaster NHK said. In neighboring Ibaraki Prefecture, at least 20,000 were ordered to evacuate for fear of flooding.

Japan's weather agency issued more flood warnings for the central parts of the country. "This is a scale of downpour that we have not experienced before. Grave danger could be imminent," Japan Meteorological Agency meteorologist Takuya Deshimaru said at an emergency press conference on Thursday.

Reports say more than a dozen people have been injured in the latest countrywide deluge. Some parts of the country have been inundated with almost 60 centimeters of rain since Monday evening when the heavy downpours began.

Last year, floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains killed dozens of people.



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