

# Selected Global Extreme Information

RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT: April 1999 - Last Updated April 26th, 1999

## UPDATE OF REPORTED CLIMATE-WEATHER IMPACTS

(Courtesy of [NOAA Office of Global Programs](#))

\*The information provided in the RRP updates is gathered from a variety of wire and news sources as well as country and international agency reports. It does not necessarily reflect the focus or interest of NOAA's Office of Global Programs and is meant only as source of condensed information.

### **Impacts Reported as of 04/02/99- 04/05/99**

**BANGLADESH (tornado)** A tornado hit northern Bangladesh on March 26. It killed 2 people, injured 60, and made nearly 100,000 people homeless. Another storm on April 7th killed 7 people and injured another 200 people.

**BHUTAN (forest fires)** Wildfires have burned 30,000 acres throughout the country since the beginning of 1999. A total of 100 fires have been reported.

**CHINA (flood)** On March 28 flash floods near Xintai city in Hubei killed four miners while leaving another 33 miners missing.

**MALAWI (floods)** Flooding in northern Malawi has displaced some 2,000 individuals. About twenty villages have been affected.

**UNITED STATES (California)(snow storm)** 7 illegal immigrants from Mexico perished in mountains around San Diego County as a result of snowstorms. 130 more were rescued. The snowstorm also caused a single engine plane to crash. 4 were killed.

**UNITED STATES (Louisiana)(tornadoes)** Tornadoes in northwestern Louisiana on Saturday and Sunday have caused between 6 and 9 fatalities. 100 were injured and 500 made homeless.

**VIETNAM (1997-98 El Nino and dengue.)** The GOV announced that deaths from dengue fever rose from 226 in 1997 to 383 in 1998. Total reported infections rose from 107,000 to 238,866. The GOV blamed the recent El Nino for creating unusually warm and moist conditions in southern and central Vietnam.

### **Impacts Reported as of 04/05/99- 04/10/99**

**BANGLADESH (water shortage)** Several hundred people rioted in Dhaka in complaint of a water shortage. The GOB is currently producing a total of 2,000 megawatts of electricity

compared to a needed 2,400. Only 960 million liters of water per day are being produced -- 1.4 billion liters a day are needed.

**BHUTAN (forest fires)** Wildfires have burned 30,000 acres throughout the country since the beginning of 1999. A total of 100 fires have been reported.

**BOLIVIA (flood)** Flooding along the Beni river in mid-March has affected 1,000 individuals and destroyed 120 homes.

**CHINA (flood)** On March 28 flash floods near Xintai city in Hubei killed four miners while leaving another 33 miners missing.

**CHINA (forest fire)** Forest fires in Shanxi province claimed 23 people and destroyed 330 acres.

**CHILE (drought)** Drought in 1998 severely lowered Chile's water reservoirs -- many of which supply the country with hydroelectric power. Power shortages had already been recognized and resulted in several planned outages to conserve energy. The GOC has expanded the outages and warned of possible daily blackouts. The outages are expected to last six to eight weeks.

**COLOMBIA (flood)** 400 people have been left homeless and 50 homes destroyed following heavy rainfall and floods. At least 9 people have reportedly died.

**INDIA (forest fire)** 41 fires have destroyed 349.25 hectares of forest in the past few weeks. 6 people have died. The fires are occurring along the Ganga-Yamuna watershed, which the Hindustan Times reports as the most vital of four watersheds within the country. The Gangetic plains, and its inhabitants, are directly dependent upon the water shed.

**INDONESIA (landslide)** Heavy rains triggered a landslide in Bali which killed three people. One person is still missing. 40 people have died from landslides affecting Bali over the past several months.

**IRAN (drought)** Abnormally low rainfall is causing the worst drought in 30 years according to Iranian agriculture minister, Isa Kalantari. The GOI is planning to dig new wells in the southern regions most affected.

**MALAWI (floods)** Flooding in the northern Karonga district of Malawi has displaced some 2,000 individuals. About twenty villages have been affected.

**MOZAMBIQUE (floods)** Flooding in Mozambique since the beginning of the year has claimed 23 lives, affected 200,000 persons, and caused \$12.4 million USD worth of damage. 50,000 hectares have been inundated.

**NIGERIA (storm)** After a storm off Nigerian coast sank a passenger ferry, 300 persons were reported missing. As of Friday the number of confirmed dead reached 100. 30 have survived and the rest are still missing.

UNITED STATES (California)(snow storm) 7 illegal immigrants from Mexico perished in mountains around San Diego County as a result of snowstorms. 130 more were rescued. The snowstorm also caused a single engine plane to crash. 4 were killed.

UNITED STATES (mid-west/Ohio)(tornadoes and storms) Severe storms and tornadoes on Thursday and Friday injured at least 42 people and killed at least six people. In Ohio 400 homes in three counties were severely damaged. 40,000 individuals were without power. 17 mobile homes in Ashland, IL were destroyed by a tornado.

UNITED STATES (Louisiana)(tornadoes) Tornadoes in northwestern Louisiana on Saturday and Sunday have caused between 6 and 9 fatalities. 100 were injured and 500 made homeless.

VENEZUELA (flooding) Heavy rains caused a river to overflow in the Lara region. 5 bridges were destroyed and 500 were left homeless.

VIETNAM (1997-98 El Nino and dengue.) The GOV announced that deaths from dengue fever rose from 226 in 1997 to 383 in 1998. Total reported infections rose from 107,000 to 238,866. The GOV blamed the recent El Nino for creating unusually warm and moist conditions in southern and central Vietnam.

#### **Impacts Reported as of 04/11/99- 04/12/99**

COLOMBIA (floods) 25 people have died and 3,000 have been left homeless after heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. Cauca, Narino, Valle, Cundinamarca, and Bogota are the most affected provinces/city.

CUBA (forest fire) Quoting the GOC, the BBC stated nearly 2,000 people were fighting a large forest fire in the Pinar del Rio province. 600 hectares of pine and eucalyptus trees have reportedly burned.

UNITED STATES (storms) The National Weather Service (NWS) received reports of 64 tornadoes affecting Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Illinois. Severe storms affected the mid-west April 8 and 9. The American Red Cross stated 900 homes had been affected -- 200 destroyed and 400 severely damaged. 6 people were killed in the storms.

#### **Impacts Reported as of 04/12/99- 04/16/99**

AUSTRALIA (hailstorm) A hailstorm in Sydney caused what is expected to be hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage; the Insurance Council of Australia estimated repair costs could be \$190 million. 15,000 homes lost power, and several people were injured.

BELARUS (floods) Unusually warm weather in late March of this year has increased the spring snow melt. The resulting floods have affected 18,002 structures (7,162 are houses) as well as damaged some 82.25 km of roads and 15 bridges. The total area flooded is 255,653 hectares, and roughly 2,000 people have been resettled. 17,950 people are involved at some level in responding to the flood situation. The GOB has estimated \$21.4 USD are needed for repairs.

There is also considerable concern from the GOB that the flooding waters, particularly along the Pripyat river, will carry radioactive waste left by Chernobyl. Flooding was occurring along all or parts of the Pripyat, Berezina, Sozh, Dnieper, Niemen, and Zapadnaya Dvina. Similar flooding caused by snow melts since February has occurred in Romania, Hungary, and the Ukraine.

CANADA (floods) Significant flooding along the Souris river in southwestern Manitoba has not yet caused any casualties but has created significant problems for local farmers. The melting of record level snowpacks caused much of the recent flooding. British Columbia authorized roughly \$2.5 million USD for repair and strengthening of dikes along the Fraser and other rivers. There is a potential for worse flooding in May and June of this year.

CHINA (summer 1998 floods) The summer floods of 1998 reportedly destroyed some 645,000 acres of cropland.

COLOMBIA (floods) 25 people have died and 3,000 have been left homeless after heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. Cauca, Narino, Valle, Cundinamarca, and Bogota are the most affected provinces/city.

CUBA (forest fire) Quoting the GOC, the BBC stated nearly 2,000 people were fighting a large forest fire in the Pinar del Rio province. 600 hectares of pine and eucalyptus trees have reportedly burned.

FIRE Hot spots have been noted in the southeastern United States (Florida), Mexico and central America, Venezuela, and Cuba. Images are available from: <http://www.osei.noaa.gov>

NICARAGUA (fire) Nearly 9,000 hectares of forest and farmland have burned along Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. 550 fires have been reported since February.

SOMALIA (drought) Drought in north-eastern Somalia has prompted the Red Cross and other relief agencies to deliver water supplies to nomads in Mudug, Nugaal, and Galgadud.

UNITED STATES (fire)(North Carolina and Tennessee) Brush and forest fires in western North Carolina have burned 405 hectares, brush fires were also observed in portions of Tennessee. Images are available at [Smoke Plume From Tennessee Fires, April 11th, 1999](#).

UNITED STATES (storms)(mid-west) The National Weather Service (NWS) received reports of 64 tornadoes affecting Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Illinois. Severe storms affected the mid-west April 8 and 9. The American Red Cross stated 900 homes had been affected -- 200 destroyed and 400 severely damaged. 6 people were killed in the storms.

UNITED STATES (storms)(Mississippi) Heavy storms and a reported tornado hit Mississippi yesterday. 33 injuries and one death were reported in the affected counties of Jasper and Jones. 40-50 families were displaced and several livestock were also killed.

VIETNAM (drought) For the second year in a row, rains have failed during the rice planting season. The GOV has allocated 1 million USD for relief to farmers and has asked local officials to give priority to farmers whose livelihoods are likely threatened by the drought.

#### **Impacts Reported as of 04/19/99- 04/23/99**

AUSTRALIA (hailstorm) The 45 minute hailstorm affecting Sydney last week is now estimated to have cost roughly \$640 million USD (A\$1 billion) 15,000 homes were temporarily without power.

FORMER SOVIET UNION (FSU) (storms) A series of storms affecting parts of the FSU this past weekend resulted in 5 fatalities. In St. Petersburg, 20 people were reportedly injured. In the Ukraine 100 settlements were also affected, and in Belarus electric services had been damaged. The Ukraine and Belarus are currently dealing with floods caused by melting snowpack.

INDIA (heat) A heat wave affecting eastern and southern India last week resulted in 19 deaths -- primarily from the state of Orissa.

IRAQ (drought) Iraq is currently affected by what many believe is the worst drought in a half-century. The GOI banned the planting of rice this season in order to conserve water.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (flood) Heavy rains for the past few days have caused flooding in the Western Province. 30,000 people have been affected. Flooding was occurring along the Fly and Strickland Rivers.

PHILIPPINES (landslide and flood) Heavy rains triggered a landslide in a mining village located in the southern Philippines. 14 people died and 5 were still missing. Flash floods earlier in the week also affected parts of the southern Philippines. 50 houses were destroyed in the Surigao del Sur province.

RUSSIA (fire) Fires around the city of Vladivostok have burned 1,970 acres of land.

SOMALIA (drought, food situation) The International Red Cross is delivering water to nomads of Somalia. Drought following several bad harvests is worsening the food situation.

SRI LANKA (floods) Heavy rains and associated flooding have resulted in 5 deaths and 200,000 homeless individuals. The most affected district was that of Colombo.

UNITED STATES (fire)(Florida) More than 230,000 acres have burned as a result of forest and brush fire throughout the state of Florida this year. Some 173,000 acres of the burned area was Florida Everglades. Roughly 70 houses have been either damaged or destroyed. Images of these and other global hotspots (fires) are available at: [NOAA Operational Significant Event Imagery Server](#).

#### **Impacts Reported as of 04/23/99- 04/26/99**

INDIA (heat)(updated from earlier report) The heat wave in eastern and southern India is now believed to have killed 40 people -- 28 of which were from Orissa state.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (flood)(update) There is now concern that heavy rains, which caused flooding throughout the Western Province last week, may result in disease and severely contaminate drinking water. It has been reported that several rivers are littered with animals that perished in the floods.

SYRIA (drought) The GOS currently has plans to stop water service to Damascus for six hours each night beginning in June. The spring, Fieji, which supplies Damascus with water, can no longer cope given the severe drought.

### **Impacts Reported as of 04/26/99- 04/30/99**

CHINA (hailstorm) 22 people died in a two-day hailstorm affecting parts of Hubei province. Heavy rains also occurred in Hubei several days before on April 23-25, thereby flooding some houses and farmland.

CHINA (tornado) 5,000 homes were destroyed and 197 people were injured as a tornado affected Hunan province on April 28.

FIRE Several hot spots are visible throughout Central America and in southern Mexico above Guatemala and Belize. Hotspots also noted in eastern Russia. All images available at: <http://www.osei.noaa.gov>

INDIA (heat) The heat wave in eastern and southern India is now believed to have killed 100 people -- most of which were from Orissa state. There are concerns that displaced or poor persons have been more likely to drink contaminated water as a result of the severe heat. Although water borne diseases are endemic to the region, gastroenteritis is reportedly up 25% since last year.

INDIA (fire) The Hindustan Times reported that 25,000 hectares of forest area have burned in the last 10 days. The most affected areas have been Garhwal and Kumaon.

PAKISTAN (heat wave) The heat wave in India is also believed to be affecting Pakistan. 11 deaths have been reported.

RUSSIA (forest fire) Fires have destroyed 3,500 acres. The most affected areas have been Khabarovsk and Birobijan.

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### Citing the Article

Ross, Tom; "Selected Global Extreme Information April 1999"; April 1999; NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, NC