# Severe Thunderstorms Cause Four Fatalities and Widespread Destruction in Southeastern Texas



Severe thunderstorms hit southeastern Texas on Thursday, resulting in four fatalities and widespread destruction. The storm, occurring for the second time this month, caused severe damage, including shattered windows in high-rise buildings and downed trees and power lines, resulting in power outages affecting nearly 900,000 homes and businesses in the Houston area.

Mary Benton, chief of communications for Houston's mayor, confirmed that four individuals were killed by falling trees, including one person inside a vehicle. The National Weather Service issued flash flood and severe thunderstorm warnings for multiple counties, with damaging winds and potential tornadoes. Residents were advised to seek shelter immediately.

Flooded streets and downed power lines were reported, with KHOU-TV showcasing images of damaged buildings and debris in downtown Houston. City officials urged residents to stay off the roads due to impassability and non-functioning traffic lights. Airports experienced grounded flights due to winds exceeding 60 mph at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The Houston Independent School District announced the cancellation of classes on Friday. Power outages affected over 870,000 customers in Harris County, home to more than 4.7 million people. The storms earlier this month had already led to numerous high-water rescues, some from rooftops of flooded homes.