# Houston, Texas Faces Severe Aftermath of Storm With Ongoing Power Outages and Criticism Over School Conditions



Houston, Texas, is managing the aftermath of a severe storm that hit the region last week, causing extensive power outages and significant damage, including major flooding. Over 200,000 residents have been without power for more than four days, with some expected to remain without electricity until Wednesday. CenterPoint Energy, which provides power to the area, has reported complications due to downed trees, heavy debris, and damaged infrastructure.

The storm has resulted in the deaths of seven people and has affected homes and buildings across the city. Despite efforts, more than 75% of the residents have regained power, but areas like Katy, Humble, and Magnolia are still awaiting restoration.

The National Weather Service has forecast that heat index values will exceed 100°F throughout the week in southeast Texas, increasing the urgency for power restoration. Due to the power outages, major school districts remained closed, but some, including the Houston Independent School District (HISD), reopened. This has led to students attending classes in sweltering conditions without air conditioning, causing concern among parents, teachers, and lawmakers.

Houston's representative, Democratic US Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee, criticized the decision to hold classes under these conditions, calling it a "failure in leadership."

Houston has a history of power outages, notably during a deadly winter storm in February 2022. Unlike the rest of the US, Texas operates its own electrical grid, which has faced criticism for not being adequately weatherized to endure extreme weather conditions.

Residents have been advised by the National Weather Service to stay hydrated and to seek medical help if exhibiting symptoms of heatstroke, such as confusion and dizziness.