# Tornadoes Claim 22 Lives Across Multiple U.S. States



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During the Memorial Day weekend, a series of powerful tornadoes wreaked havoc across multiple U.S. states, causing significant damage and a death toll of at least 22. The severe weather affected communities in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania, a possible tornado damaged a high school and several homes in Mahanoy City, approximately 70 miles northeast of Harrisburg. No injuries were reported, but schools were closed on Tuesday for damage assessment.

Earlier, tornadoes caused fatalities and extensive destruction in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kentucky. Texas experienced the highest casualties, with seven deaths reported in Cooke County from a tornado hitting a mobile home park. Arkansas reported eight deaths, while Kentucky's Governor Andy Beshear confirmed five fatalities. Oklahoma saw two deaths in Mayes County from a tornado disrupting an outdoor wedding.

The storms also led to widespread power outages, affecting over 200,000 homes and businesses across Kentucky, Texas, Arkansas, West Virginia, and Missouri. Forecasters warn of continued severe weather threats, with risks of thunderstorms, damaging winds, large hail, and flash flooding especially in Texas and Oklahoma.

Reports indicate this has been a particularly destructive period for tornadoes, with previous weeks seeing deaths in Iowa and Houston from similar storms. The pattern is attributed to persistent warm, moist air at the edge of a heat dome affecting southern Texas to Florida, with heat indices nearing triple digits and record temperatures in several locations including Miami and Melbourne, Florida.

Harold Brooks, a senior scientist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Oklahoma, cited the continuous influx of warm air as the main factor behind the recent increase in tornado activity.

For further details on tornado activities, refer to updated reports from the National Weather Service.