LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Deadly storm triggers landslide, power outages

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A powerful wind storm rolled through the Pacific Northwest, killing one person and leaving a trail of damage — including a highway shut down after a landslide and a tractor-trailer that was nearly blown off a bridge. More than 500,000 people lost power.

The death happened in Spokane, when a woman in her 40s died after a tree fell on her car and trapped her inside, Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer said. And in Oregon, one person was missing who authorities believed was swept away in a vehicle after a landslide hit Interstate 84, authorities said.

In Oregon, residents of the small community of Dodson in Multnomah County were told to evacuate after the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning Wednesday morning, KOIN-TV reported.

The weather service told residents to call friends in the area to wake them up and tweeted that the situation has been "deemed too dangerous to send in rescue crews."

Near Dodson, part of Interstate 84 was closed after the landslide spilled onto the freeway before dawn.

The missing person was believed to have been driving a car that was swept away in the debris flow, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

The landslide was estimated to be 10 feet deep in some areas and too dangerous for search and rescue crews. Heavy machinery was being brought in to clear the debris, officials said.

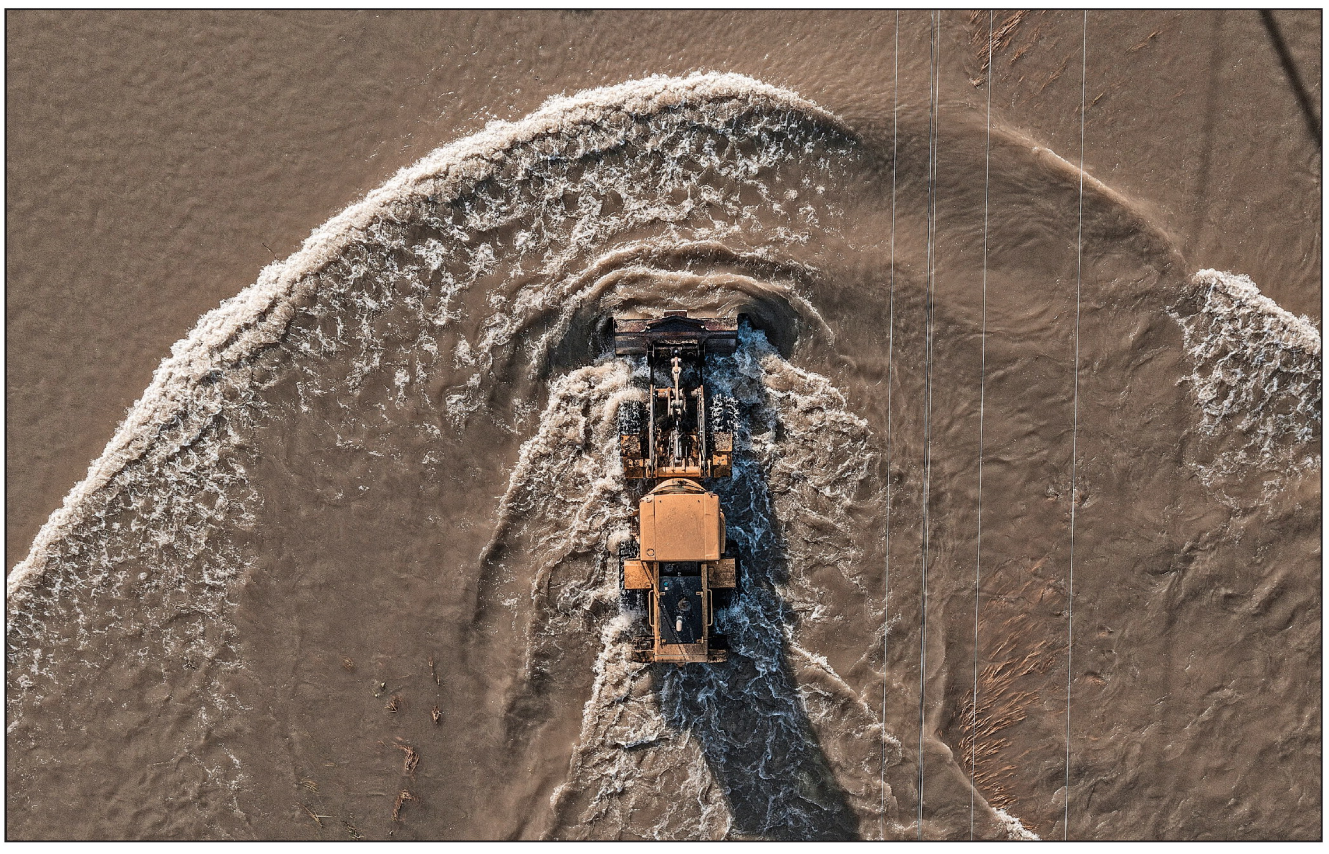
Several rivers began overflowing their banks in Oregon, and a tractor-trailer in Washington state blew over amid heavy wind gusts as it attempted to travel over the Deception Pass Bridge north of Seattle, officials said. Part of the truck was left dangling over the edge of the bridge, but the driver escaped unharmed.

"I just passed the middle of the bridge and a gust of ... I don't know how bad ... just picked up my trailer and my truck and just pushed it against the guard rail," trucker Jeff Myles told KOMO NewsRadio. "I slammed on my brakes, and I just laid over the guard rail. It tilted about 3 feet each way."

Myles said his cab was leaning over the edge of the bridge, and he couldn't open his door.

"I could look down at the water (out my window), so I wasn't going to open THAT door," he said.

Multiple school districts in Oregon were also closed for online learning or significantly delayed because of internet outages that prevented students from logging on to class.



LEFT: A bulldozer is surrounded by floodwaters from the Snoqualmie River near Fall City, Washington, on Wednesday following an overnight storm that left a trail of damage across the Northwest.

Steve Ringman/The Seattle Times

The death happened in Spokane, when a woman in her 40s died after a tree fell on her car and trapped her inside.

Colin Mulvany/The Spokesman-Review photos

ABOVE: Children climb around a large ponderosa pine that fell in a Spokane, Washington, park Wednesday.

LEFT: Crews remove a large tree that fell on a vehicle, killing a woman, in Spokane.

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