

## FACT BOX

## RESCUE HOTLINE NUMBERS

Police: 110  
Fire: 119  
Medical emergency/ambulance: 120  
Traffic accidents: 122  
Power supply repair: 95598

## Beijing municipal government service center:

12345  
Chaoyang district: 96105  
Haidian district: 96181  
Shijingshan district: 68812345  
Yanqing county: 69112345  
Other districts and counties: 12345

## Red Cross emergency rescue: 999

## Urban management:

96310  
Municipal engineering:

63088467  
Emergency repair:

88465055  
Drainage repair:

63425833  
Gas repair: 96777

## Transportation commission service:

68351150  
Transportation repair:

96166  
Road service: 63176255

## Taxi booking:

96103/96106

## TIPS FOR CALLING:

Call your family and friends first as the hotlines may be extremely busy. Tell them your situation and location, and let them help if they can.

BEIJING POLICE — CHINA DAILY

## Beijing reflects on emergency

By XINHUA

A top Beijing official said on Friday that the recent rainstorms in the capital, that resulted in at least 77 deaths, have exposed serious flaws in the city's urban planning, construction, infrastructure and emergency management procedures.

Guo Jinlong, secretary of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee, paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the disaster during a trip to Fangshan district, one of the worst hit by the storms.

"We must seriously reflect on these lessons and always bear them in mind," said Guo, who was elected secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee on July 3.

He pointed out that the disaster had delivered some "profound lessons and exposed many loopholes".

Acting Mayor Wang Anshun, who joined other city officials at a memorial ceremony to remember those killed in Fangshan, said he appreciated the public's criticism, and their concerns on the government's handling of the aftermath.

"The municipal government will seriously consider the criticisms raised, and increase its efforts to prevent such a tragedy from happening again," he said.

Latest updates on the storm's death toll has sparked growing public criticism. Municipal authorities reported a new figure of 77 deaths on Thursday



Beijing Party chief Guo Jinlong (front), acting Mayor Wang Anshun (second from left) and other city officials mourn the victims killed in the July 21 downpour in a mountainous village in Fangshan district on Friday. Many of the 77 confirmed deaths were in the district, hit hardest by the heavy rains.

RAO QIANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

evening, four days after first reporting 37 deaths.

Friday was the seventh day following the deaths. In Chinese tradition, the seventh day following death is a day to mourn and pray for the deceased.

Guo led city officials in several minutes' silence on the bank of the Juma River, where flooding caused heavy

casualties, as well as considerable damage to property.

Rescuers retrieved 38 bodies in Fangshan, including that of an 8-month-old girl. Most of the victims had drowned.

The downpour, reportedly the heaviest rain to hit the city in six decades, unleashed a city-wide average of 170 mm of rainfall, with Fangshan receiving

a record 460 mm of rain.

Qi Hong, head of the district, told municipal officials that conditions there remain chaotic.

Roads are blocked, supplies of electricity and water have yet to be restored and many people have been left homeless.

"Our primary job is to ensure that all

the victims have shelter and sufficient food supplies," Qi said.

Guo and other officials dined together with flood refugees and construction workers in a temporary settlement in the village of Baidai.

Qi said the disaster affected 800,000 people in the district, as well as causing 2.26 billion yuan (\$358 million) of damage.

Wang pledged that the city government will make every effort in directing relief work, including restoring water and power supplies, repairing roads, controlling possible disease outbreaks and preventing floods in the event of more downfalls.

## City braced for more rain

Beijing issued fresh warnings of possible land damage on Friday afternoon, as the city braced itself for more heavy rain from Friday evening to Saturday.

The city's Bureau of Land and Resources and Meteorological Bureau jointly issued a yellow alert at 4:10 pm for possible mudslides and cave-ins in mountainous areas in the Pinggu, Huairou, Fangshan and Mentougou districts and Miyun county.

A yellow alert is the third-highest warning level in China's five-tier color-coded geological disaster warning system.

According to the latest meteorological data, Beijing will see showers and thunderstorms in some areas on Friday evening.

## Search-and-rescue efforts continue for the missing

By ZHENG XIN

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Beijing's government and residents continued to search on Friday for those missing in the July 21 downpour and flooding.

The Beijing Municipal Government Information Office has released a 24-hour public hotline (010-6201-4533) for those with information about missing victims, according to the official micro blog of the municipal government.

Seven days after the heaviest rain in more than six decades hit the capital, relatives and residents were still searching for those missing since the downpour. Meanwhile, the public security bureau is still trying to determine the identities of the 11 unidentified victims through DNA identification.

Those searching for missing relatives or friends are doing so through various channels, including messages on *weibo*, China's popular Twitter-like micro-blogging service, and by posting physical messages around the areas where the missing persons disappeared.

Wang Yang, a resident in his 30s from Beijing's Yanqing county, has put up posters and sent out fliers with a photo and information about his dad, a 61-year-old man who disappeared in the night of July 21 when

the downpour hit the city.

Although many posters have been put up in the area where his dad might be, Wang has got no messages or information about his whereabouts.

Wang said his dad, who was going to take Bus 919 from Yanqing to downtown Beijing, was never heard from after 5 pm that day.

"I vividly remember he was wearing a gray T-shirt and black trousers, a gray cap and carrying a bag," said Wang. "That might be the last image I have of my dad."

Wang said he was not allowed to see the unidentified victims as they are already unidentifiable. However, the police said they are working on the DNA of the victims and will release the identities of them soon.

Wang and his mother have had their DNA extracted for comparison with the unidentified victims, and are still anxiously waiting for the results.

"It is a blow to the whole family indeed," said Wang. "However, as long as we have not heard from the police, we will keep looking for my father, through all means."

Also still missing is Yang Han, a 29-year-old from Fangshan district, who was swept away on July 25, according to his 51-year-old father, Yang Sumin.

The local police station has col-

lected his son's DNA on Wednesday but the family hasn't received any feedback, according to Yang Sumin.

In the disaster-hit areas, volunteers are searching for those missing in the past few days.

"It's not clear whether or when we can find the missing victims in this area," Zhao Lijie, a publicity officer at Chengguan town of Fangshan district, told China Daily on Friday. "But we will not give up. Many local residents are voluntarily working together to find those missing in the past few days."

Meanwhile, the hunt for the missing continues.

Sitting on the a blue airbed while floating on a reservoir now filled with floating branches, animal carcasses and trash, 60-year-old Chen Baocun from Gushankou village of Fangshan district has been searching for his companion since July 21. The missing man, 61-year-old Cai Shoujiang, was swept away by the flood that hit the district, according to the Beijing News.

"I will do whatever I can to find him," said Chen. "He's too good a guy to leave us."

Cai was at the foot of the hill when the rainfall and the flood hit the village on July 21. Because of his poor hearing, Cai remained at the foot of the hill while the residents were asked to move to higher ground.



Chen Baocun, 60, rides an airbed in a reservoir in search of his missing friend Cai Shoujiang near Gushankou village in Fangshan district in Beijing on Thursday. Cai disappeared in the heavy rains and flooding of July 21.

CUI MUYANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

"One wave, and he's gone," Chen said.

Zheng Zhijie, Cai's sister-in-law, said that Cai left nothing but a notebook, about eight patched items of clothing and a ponytail, which Cai used to drive mosquitoes away from his paralyzed father, who is in his 90s.

Pan Anjun, deputy head of the municipal flood control and

drought relief headquarters, said that although there have been no further reports of missing people, the headquarters will continue search efforts.

His words were echoed by Zhai Ruisheng, Party chief of the Beicheng village in Fengtai district, who said that no reports of missing people has been received recently, and the village is now working on clearing the streets and mending the

## CHINA'S RAINFALL WARNING SYSTEM



**Blue**  
50 mm or above in 12 hours



**Yellow**  
50 mm or above in 6 hours



**Orange**  
50 mm or above in 3 hours



**Red**  
100 mm or above in 3 hours

local infrastructure while distributing relief materials to residents in the disaster areas.

Villager You Fengqi said, "We are now clearing the sludge stuck in the closets and clearing up the soaked quilts and clothes. It might take a month to get the village back in shape. The losses are just immeasurable."

Ji Jin contributed to this story.

## AIDS drug to be phased out

By SHAN JUAN

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China has vowed to gradually phase out the AIDS drug D4T, which the World Health Organization recommended early in 2009 to be phased out worldwide because of its long-term and irreversible side effects.

"As the country is further expanding antiretroviral therapy among sufferers under the treatment as prevention strategy now recognized worldwide, the drug regimen will also be optimized," Wu Zunyou, director of the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, said on Friday.

Since WHO's recommendation in 2009, China has already taken steps to reduce the use of D4T, said Zhao Yan, deputy director of the AIDS treatment and care division of the center.

Several years ago, about half

of AIDS patients on the Chinese mainland were using the drug, Zhao said.

She expected that by the end of 2013, China would no longer be using D4T for AIDS treatment on the mainland.

In July, 10 to 15 percent of new AIDS patients in Wuhan, Hubei province, were prescribed D4T, mostly in rural areas, a source close to the situation said.

Currently, about 26 percent of the more than 140,000 AIDS patients on antiretroviral therapy, are still receiving D4T on the mainland, statistics from the NCAIDS showed.

To replace the drug, the government has recommended TDF, which is much more expensive, Zhao said.

Earlier this year, Chinese health authorities added TDF into AIDS treatment guidelines and decided to increase the use of TDF-based first-line regimens.

Thomas Cai, director of

AIDS Care China, said: "The treatment will help patients live and work normally rather than struggle with serious side effects."

"It's already three years since the WHO recommendation," he said, urging the government to update the suggested drug regimen as soon as possible.

"Treating the side effects costs a lot," he added.

Doctors regularly prescribe D4T to new patients, given that the drug allegedly causes few side effects in the short run, Zhao Yan explained.

However, for long-term use, studies show that it causes serious and irreversible side effects including fat loss, higher plasma lipid levels, pancreatitis, lactic acidosis, and neuropathy.

With China's prevention strategy, more AIDS patients will receive free antiretroviral therapy and an "optimized drug regimen which results in fewer side effects," she said.

26 percent  
of more than 140,000 AIDS patients still receiving D4T

## Trees bear the brunt of Vicente

By HUANG YULI in Shenzhen and ZHENG CAIXIONG in Guangzhou

Typhoon Vicente, which barreled its way across South China earlier this week, not only affected the lives of local people but also tore down many thousands of trees in Guangdong province.

In the wake of the tropical cyclone on Monday, Shenzhen's urban management bureau has reported 115,000 trees being uprooted or destroyed, while neighboring Hong Kong got off relatively lightly, with just 1,000 trees affected.

No further details were given as to the types of trees affected in Shenzhen, but some sources suggested many could have been those newly planted for the Universiade, the international sport event for students, held in the city in August.

Song Liping, the forestry department chief of Shenzhen urban management bureau, said the reason why so many trees lay broken was the fact

that the typhoon was the hardest for a decade, and the heavy rainfall had had a major effect on trees especially planted along roads and highways.

"For instance, the trunk of the orchid tree is not very resistant to wind, much like big leaf mahogany trees planted locally which are big and heavy, and can often slope and break easily in wind," Song said.

She added that many of those trees are not found along roads, but on green belts to add beauty to the landscape; but as the city has grown in recent years, many trees have also been planted along streets, and they are vulnerable to wind and storms.

She said she personally believed the fallen trees were nothing to do with the Universiade, and that the number was so huge because of new statistical methods used, which include all the trees that had fallen or had branches broken, in all districts and committees, while before they only counted trees directly managed by the bureau, in Luohu and Futian

districts.

In 1999, there was also a serious typhoon, when 24,598 trees were broken; in 2003 during the enormous typhoon Dujuan, 26,300 were affected.

"This time, if we only count the trees directly managed by us in the downtown area, the number would be 18,293," she said.

She said the bureau was working hard to rescue damaged trees by cutting affected broken branches and mending other damage, ideally within the next three weeks.

Meanwhile, in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, typhoon Vicente also inflicted heavy damage on the city's trees, with 6,518 trees uprooted or blown down.

Rows of trees planted in cement containers were found uprooted or blown down on Nantian Road in the city's Haizhu district. And gardeners were still busy clearing away collapsed trees and branches on Thursday.

The city's landscape department explained the trees were

planted this way because there are many pipelines, including gas, electricity, water and telecommunication pipelines under Nantian Road.

Authorities have promised to soon replant the trees.

"But the tree trunks will be reinforced by bamboo rods and ropes," authorities added.

In Haizhu district, more than 120 were reported to have collapsed when the tropical storm struck the southern metropolis.

In Taishan, a coastal city in western part of Guangdong, another 5,000 trees were also uprooted by the gales, most kapok and banyan trees.

A large number of trees were also reported to have collapsed when Vicente struck the cities of Jiangmen, Foshan and Huizhou in the Pearl River Delta, which borders Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.

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