

Dozens of Americans Missing After Catastrophic Glacial Collapse Kills Hundreds Near China Border

More than 60 Americans are among the 1,300 people still missing after a catastrophic glacial collapse triggered deadly floods along the Nepal-China border, according to Nepal Police.

The disaster has claimed at least 353 lives as of Thursday, with the death toll expected to rise as search and rescue teams struggle to reach devastated areas. Officials confirmed foreigners from more than 30 countries were in the popular pilgrimage region when catastrophe struck Wednesday.

The United States Geological Survey reported that the glacial collapse and resulting debris flow caused the Lhunde Khola River to surge without warning. The event was so violent it initially registered as an earthquake. Upon investigation, the USGS determined the seismic reading, a magnitude 5.2 event, was caused by the massive landslide itself rather than tectonic activity.

Video footage from Nepal Police shows a wall of water rushing down the river valley, destroying bridges and buildings as terrified people attempted to flee to safety. The images reveal the sheer devastation left behind in the flood's path.

The region draws pilgrims and travelers from around the world, which explains the significant number of foreign nationals caught in the disaster. Nepal Police confirmed Americans make up the largest group of missing foreigners, with more than 60 unaccounted for as rescue operations continue.



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Nations around the globe have responded by sending aid to the stricken region. But the crisis may be far from over.

Nepal's disaster agency issued a stark warning Thursday that another catastrophe could be imminent. Officials explained that the initial flood created a new lake in the affected area, and that lake is now dangerously close to bursting. Authorities urged anyone in potentially affected zones to exercise extreme caution and be prepared to evacuate.

The timing couldn't be worse. Monsoon season continues to grip the country, with rain in the forecast for the coming days. Additional precipitation could accelerate the threat from the newly formed lake or trigger further landslides in the unstable terrain.

The disaster highlights the ongoing dangers facing remote mountain communities and travelers in the Himalayan region, where climate conditions can turn deadly with little warning. Glacial events have become an increasing concern in recent years throughout the mountain ranges along the Nepal-China border.

Search and rescue teams face significant challenges in reaching affected areas. The flood destroyed critical infrastructure, including bridges that provided the only access to some remote villages and pilgrimage sites. Rescue workers are racing against time, knowing that survival odds diminish with each passing hour.

American families waiting for news face an agonizing wait as officials work to account for the missing. The State Department has not yet issued a public statement regarding efforts to locate American citizens or assist their families.

Nepal Police posted updates on social media, urging citizens to support one another and avoid spreading rumors as the crisis unfolds. The message, shared in Nepali, called for unity during the national emergency.

As the search continues, the human cost of this disaster grows clearer by the hour. With over 1,300 souls still unaccounted for and another potential flood looming, the people of this border region face dark days ahead.

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