



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
SITUATION REPORT

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Emergency Management Agency

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Columbus, Ohio 43235

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Strickland, Governor
FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency
SUBJECT: February 2008 Wind and Flooding - SITREP #1
DATE: February 6, 2008

Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

GENERAL SITUATION

In response to heavy rainstorms and localized flooding across Ohio, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 8:00 a.m. this morning, Wednesday, February 6, 2008. A Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefing was held in the SEOC Assessment Room at 11:15 a.m. today. The next scheduled CAS Level 1 briefing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. tomorrow in the SEOC Assessment Room.

There has been one state level request for support from Auglaize County for 10,000 sandbags. Ohio EMA dispatched sandbagging supplies at 11:15 a.m. today. At this time, no other local support has been requested through the SEOC.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will continue to monitor the situation for any changes.

DECLARATIONS

County: Auglaize (verbal on 2/6), Hancock, Henry (verbal on 2/6), Mercer

WEATHER

Weather Synopsis

The National Weather Service, Cleveland, Ohio, reported that a stationary front has remained over Ohio since Monday morning, providing the focus for several rounds of moderate to heavy rainfall both Monday night and Tuesday night. Two to four inches of rain has fallen in northern Ohio since Monday morning, with one to two inches falling in the southern half of the state. The heaviest rainfall has fallen in the Maumee River Basin and in tributaries to Lake Erie.

Rivers are high throughout the state, with rivers in the northern third of the state experiencing moderate to major flood levels. Elsewhere, minor flooding is expected.

General Forecast

The storm system is pulling away, but it will leave a few rain and snow showers in our weather today as temperatures slowly fall during the afternoon. Tonight expect clearing skies with lows in the 20s, and on Thursday expect partly cloudy skies with highs in the 30s and 40s. Weather across Ohio will remain cool into the weekend before an arctic blast of cold air arrives on Sunday.

Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories by County As Reported by NOAA:

The following counties are under a Flood Warning: Adams, Allen, Auglaize, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Holmes, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Van Wert, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot.

The following counties are under a Flood Watch: Ashland, Ashtabula (Inland & Lakeshore), Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Gallia, Hancock, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Portage, Richland, Ross, Seneca, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Washington, Wayne, Wood, and Wyandot.

The following counties are under a Flood Advisory: Adams, Athens, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Gallia, Hamilton, Highland, Meigs, Morgan, Warren, and Washington.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT reported 42 roads closed throughout Ohio due to high waters and flooding. There are 13 restricted roads reported by ODOT districts. For a complete list of road closures, visit www.buckeyetraffic.org.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

The ODNR, Division of Water, has been assisting Putnam County EMA by providing contact information for the Defiance Power Dam. The county is seeking assistance from the operators of the dam to open gates and hopefully lower water levels behind the dam. County officials had reported that they were interested in having gates opened at Independence Dam. However, Independence Dam does not have flood control gates and it is downstream of Defiance Power Dam.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

OEPA's hotline is receiving a high volume of sewage overflows due to the wet weather event. Sewage overflows are common during wet weather events. All district offices are reporting no flood-related issues at the public WWTP (Waste Water Treatment Plants) or public drinking water plants at this time. No other flood-related issues have been reported to the OEPA hotline number (800-282-9378) as of this report.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

Richland County: Shelby and Clear Fork Schools are closed. Congressman Jordan scheduled to visit Bellville today. Community Emergency Response Team and Retired & Senior Volunteer Program volunteers are working at the Richland County EOC.

All Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) coordinators have been alerted to the flooding and put on standby. No MRC units have reported activation.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Hancock County has one shelter open with no population. Location is not known.

Auglaize County has two potential shelters available, depending on needs assessment.

Henry County has one shelter open near Hamlin. It is currently unoccupied.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

The ODH, Bureau of Environmental Health, reported that the Henry County Health Department called to request information on boiling procedures. Henry County is drafting a press release for the public and wanted to know the recommended amount of time citizens should boil their water if contamination is suspected. Based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and USEPA recommendations, people should boil their water for one minute.

ODH has no reported long-term care facilities with evacuation, imminent evacuation or significant disruption of operations due to the recent high winds and/or flooding. ODH will continue to monitor the situation.

ESF 12 - Energy

American Electric Power reported 600 customers are without power in Athens and 1,300 are without power in Chillicothe.

Duke Energy reported 989 customers still without power in Clermont County. Brown County still has 35 customers without service.

ESF 11 – Food and Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

The Ohio Department of Agriculture reported that Auglaize County EOC has requested animal assistance through the State EOC. ODA coordinated contact between Ohio Region One Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) and Auglaize County EMA to determine response capabilities of DART. Ohio Veterinary Emergency Response (OVER) is on standby for any further requests for assistance.

ODA will contact Bethel Feed & Supply in Clermont County to determine severity of reported damage. ODA will contact Farm Service Agency and OSU Extension to see if they have received any damage reports from their county offices. Agriculture will continue to monitor ODA internal divisions for any damage reports from the field.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

The Ohio State Highway Patrol districts report many state and county routes closed due to high water and flooding. Their biggest concern is flooding on I-75 in Hancock County. Water reported on one lane of I-75 has now receded.

Ohio Homeland Security Division (OHS)

The Strategic Analysis & Information Center reported there is no known intelligence indicating any terrorist activity relating to or resulting from the high winds and flooding in northern Ohio.

The Office of Protection & Security reported there is no known compromise to any major critical infrastructure.

Ohio National Guard (ONG)

The Ohio National Guard is standing by and continuing to monitor the flooding situation. They are making preliminary contacts with their county/regional Liaison Officers (LNOs) to establish initial contact with county EOCs.

COUNTY IMPACTS

The following county reports are current as of 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

Auglaize County: The County has numerous local roads closed. Auglaize and St. Marys' rivers are out of their banks. The situation will continue to worsen until the rivers crest. Swift water rescues occurred all night for citizens in homes and trailers. The Humane Society building is currently underwater. The humane society is working with the Engineers' Office in an attempt to rescue/recovery. Ohio EMA is coordinating a request from Auglaize County for 10,000 sandbags. Agriculture officials were contacted. Ohio Region One Disaster Animal Response Team was notified about the animal situation.

Clermont County: There was an apparent downburst in the village of Bethel. There is sporadic power with Bethel Sub station out. Three businesses in Bethel were damaged: a grocery store partially collapsed, Bethel Feed & Supply, and a house on private property was damaged. Numerous homes had downed trees in yards. Power lines are down. A barn collapsed in Tate Township. Additional damages are coming in.

Defiance County: Auglaize and Maumee rivers are expected to flood. Streets expected to be impacted in Defiance are the following: Power Dam Road, Riverside Drive, Second Street, Third Street, Fort Street, Holgate Avenue, and Jackson Avenue.

Hancock County: Hancock city and county officials are working together to handle the high water. No issues at this time.

Lake County: Have advised several residents of potential for flooding and have advised those in the most probable areas to consider evacuation. No sheltering needs or operations at this time.

Henry County: The County has a verbal county declaration. Flood waters are expected to be 1.5 feet higher than those of the 2005 Presidential-declared flood event. Currently two roads are closed and water crest predictions are higher than previously projected. The county EMA reports that 75 people need to be evacuated and American Red Cross is assisting with sheltering in Hamlin.

Highland County: Damage reports from high winds include two unoccupied mobile homes flipped over, two occupied mobile homes were moved off their foundations and multiple roofs were damaged by falling trees. The Wilmington Office of the National Weather Service is expected to survey the damage, but does not believe the damage was tornadic in nature.

Medina County – The County has 25 closures on county and township roads. Several businesses in the city of Wadsworth have flooded parking areas, but no structure involvement. Streams and low lying areas are under water. No significant weather-related issues at this time.

Mercer County: The County has received approximately three inches of rain total with over an inch yesterday. There are reports of many residential homes with severe basement flooding. Approximately 30 roads around Celina area, and several streets are closed or with high water. Coldwater, a large village, also has major basement flooding, plus some sanitary problems. Grand Lake is 22 inches above pool stage, and St. Marys River is at 11.3 feet and is expecting to crest tonight at 14.3 feet.

Medina County: There are 25 road closures on county and township roads. Several businesses in Wadsworth are experiencing flooding, but no adverse effects on structures. Streams and low lying areas are under water and are expected to remain so for the next 2 days.

Morrow County: There are currently three roadways closed due to high water: County Road 25 between State Route 42 and State Route 746 (Delaware Reservoir Whetstone Creek), and the northeastern part of the county which is the Johnsville Cedar Fork Creek area. Most creeks are running near capacity. Low lying areas are experiencing some flood. No known evacuations or significant property damages reported.

Paulding County: Three county roads are closed. Two houses are being sandbagged. No major issues foreseen.

Portage County: The County EMA Director is conducting preliminary damage assessments and reports widespread flooding throughout the county. Mostly roads are affected; however there is a report of a trailer park flooded in Ravenna Township. There are no reports of evacuation, power outages, or shelters open. No state or federal assistance is needed.

Richland County: The EOC is open. The city of Bellville is experiencing significant flooding. Schools are closing and the district is actively busing students home before additional roads are impassable. Local media released information about schools and road closures. The city of Shelby is closely monitoring the river levels. No reports given at this time. The Shelby Fire Department may be evacuated. Road closures include the following: State Route 97, State Route 13, and numerous local roads.

Seneca County: State Route 101 and State Route 4 are closed. Minor flooding reported. US 224 and State Route 12 are closed. One county road is reported washed out. Numerous local roads are closed. No reports of residential flooding. The county may need to evacuate the Duchess Lane in Hopewell Township, which is a common occurrence with heavy rain. There could be a potential evacuation in Locus Grove if the river continues to rise.

Wyandot County: Sandusky River is out of its banks. No reported outages or road closures. All schools are in session.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2008. The state EOC Assessment Room staff will continue to monitor the severe weather situation in Ohio until conditions improve.

All agencies should email their briefing reports to: eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us.