



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

### SITUATION REPORT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ted Strickland, Governor  
**FROM:** Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
**SUBJECT:** February 2008 Wind and Flooding  
**DATE:** February 7, 2008

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**The EOC Assessment Room is at CAS-1. This is the second Situation Report for the February 2008 Wind and Flooding Incident**

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Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7, 2008.

### GENERAL SITUATION

Wednesday, February 6: A weather front produced heavy rainfall and high winds across Ohio on Monday and Tuesday of this week. This front has resulted in flooding, downed trees, and closed roads throughout the state.

Thursday, February 7: Many rivers throughout the state have crested, while other water levels are receding. This development is allowing county EMAs the opportunity to assess damages and, in certain cases, submit damage reports to Ohio EMA. Currently, several counties have shelters open to care for displaced residents. State officials conducted their first conference call at 11:00 this morning with the declared counties.

Ohio Emergency Management Agency continues to monitor the situation for any changes.

### DECLARATIONS

County: Auglaize, Defiance, Hancock, Henry, Mercer, Putnam, Seneca

### 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. Minor flooding is occurring in other areas around the state.

The front, which had been the focus of torrential rains for the past few days, has finally pushed south and east of the state. A few snow showers will be possible tonight as colder air filters into the state. Little or no accumulation is expected. This will allow for a short-lived warm up tomorrow as temperatures reach into the 40s statewide. Another storm system will bring the threat for rain and snow showers Saturday with much colder air arriving on Sunday.

#### Current Warnings and Advisories As Reported by NOAA

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

The following counties are under a Flood Advisory: Gallia, Meigs, and Washington.

### **STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

#### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

##### Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

There are currently 73 US and state route roads closed, and six restricted, due to high water and flooding. ODOT anticipates further road openings as the evening progresses. No interstate highways are being impacted by flooding at this time. For a complete list of road closures, visit [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org).

#### **ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works**

##### Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Representatives from the Floodplain Program coordinated with the US Geological Survey and National Weather Service (NWS) to resolve discrepancies related to the estimated crest of the Maumee River in Napoleon (Henry County). ODNR received confirmation from Jim Morris, Chief USGS Water Science Center, that the NWS gage and Stage estimates are correct. The USGS technical staff and NWS Ft. Wayne office discussed the situation. There may need to be an adjustment made to the language of the impact statement that NWS has prepared for the moderate to major flooding to avoid future confusion.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The hotline continues to receive a steady volume of sewage overflow reports. A small Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Stark County (Lexington Township) that serves less than 200 homes has been shut down since late Tuesday afternoon due to flooding and power loss. The WWTP operator reported that the plant will be back on line this morning (2/7). No other flood-related issues have been reported to Ohio EPA at this time.

Ohio EPA Solid Waste inspectors are available for technical assistance regarding flood debris issues. Inspectors are requesting that any request for debris management be routed through Stark County EOC.

The city of Findlay (Hancock County) drinking water plant will issue a boil alert for the entire city due to turbidity. The drinking water plant supplies water to approximately 18,584 service connections. The city will contact media outlets and advise of the boil alert.

**ESF 6 – Mass Care**

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC staff is monitoring the current situation and is communicating with support agencies. Ohio Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units are on standby, which includes volunteers from the departments of Agriculture and Mental Health.

American Red Cross (ARC)

The following are shelters managed by American Red Cross chapters.

Auglaize County – There is one American Red Cross shelter on stand-by (at a county facility on Infirmary Road). Families evacuated from Quaker Run Apartments were housed at Holiday Inn by apartment owners.

Erie County: A shelter is open at St. Stephen United Church, 905 E Perkins Avenue, Sandusky.

Defiance County: There is an American Red Cross shelter open at Trinity United Methodist Church, 413 E. Second Street, Defiance. Currently, there is one family in occupancy, but more could be expected later today as officials may need to shut off gas and in some cases electric service. Officials expect about 26 single family dwellings to be flooded on the Maumee River.

Marion County: A shelter is open at Dry Lane Construction, which is located at 376 Dry Lane Road South, La Rue. Population is 23.

Hancock County – The American Red Cross has a shelter open at the Owens Community College- Findlay campus, 3200 Bright Road. Thirteen individuals were housed at the shelter.

Henry County: One American Red Cross shelter is on standby status near the village of Hamler.

Putnam County - One American Red Cross shelter is open at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Ottawa. Four occupants are being sheltered.

Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

United Methodist volunteers with the Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRC) in Ottawa and Findlay have been notified. This group is preparing to assume leadership of the volunteer coordination while continuing to process through case management from the August 2007 flooding. A meeting is scheduled Friday to begin the planning process.

Five hundred flood fits are ready to be distributed. Communications are being prepared to call up volunteers to do mud-out work in Findlay.

The Salvation Army

Northeast Ohio Salvation Army reports that no shelters are open. Emergency canteens are servicing the area with food and beverages.

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)

Mental Health response teams are onsite at the American Red Cross operations at Owens Community-Findlay campus in Hancock County. Crisis counselors are available around the clock. Press release and radio announcements are being drafted to notify people about the counseling services.

**ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services**

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

All local health departments and regional coordinators in the Northwest Region were contacted to obtain the following situation status.

The ODH Bureau of Long Term Care Quality is monitoring the flood situation and is in communication with the District Supervisor in Northwest Ohio. There are no facilities with reported evacuation, imminent evacuation or significant disruption of operations due to the recent high winds and/or flooding.

The ODH is in communication with the Northwest Regional Hospital Coordinator. The hospital coordinator reported that the Mercer Hospital in Coldwater has no issues at this time, and no evacuations are needed. The Mercer Community Medical Center (MCMC) in Celina has experienced significant flooding and has been closed. It will remain closed until at least Friday, February 8, 2008. The Urgent Care Center from the MCMC has been moved to the Mercer Hospital in Coldwater. The Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findley is stable at this time.

The ODH Public Information Officer (PIO) worked with the Ohio EMA PIO to develop public information messages regarding water health safety.

## **ESF 12 - Energy**

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

American Electric Power and Duke Energy report there are no remaining storm-related outages.

## **ESF 13 – Law Enforcement**

### Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

District posts reported there have been no requests for division involvement in, or assistance with evacuation or rescue missions related to weather or resulting flooding conditions. There are no reports of traffic-related unusual circumstances beyond management of road closures and detours. Troopers are regularly checking on existing road closure signs and assisting with ongoing assessment of any additional traffic control signs needed.

### 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 are no known compromises to any major critical infrastructure.

### Ohio National Guard (ONG)

ONG is standing by and continuing to monitor the flooding situation.

## **COUNTY IMPACTS**

The following county reports are current as of 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7, 2008.

**Auglaize County:** The County declared an emergency on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. The water is receding. Animal shelter workers are caring for housed animals. Current focus is the animal shelter and getting access into the area. No resources are needed at this time. The EOC will be open until 4:30 p.m. today. Wapakoneta had several apartment complexes that evacuated a total of 100 people. A shelter located on Infirmary Road is on standby status.

**Cuyahoga County:** The County has no significant issues. There is reported basement flooding in many areas in the county.

**Defiance County:** The County declared an emergency on Thursday, Thursday, February 7, 2008. An American Red Cross shelter opened overnight at Trinity United Methodist Church on East Second Street. Only one family reported in the shelter overnight. The river is still rising. The County will be sandbagging the county library with volunteers. No resources are needed at this time. Fire departments are using boats to check damaged utility meters.

**Erie County:** Franklin Flats area is the main area of concern, which impacts 100 homes. St. Steven's church was opened as a shelter; population of two did not remain overnight. The shelter will remain open again today (2/7).

Fulton County: The county EOC is operating during normal business hours. The County reported an earthen dike failure along Bean Creek, a tributary of the Tiffin River. There has been significant flooding, but no homes impacted. Damage was reported to some infrastructure, but damage has not been completely assessed 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.

Hancock County: The County has declared an emergency effective 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. The ARC opened a shelter at Owens Community College on Bright Road at the north end of town. Fourteen (14) evacuees were sheltered overnight; currently have seven individuals in the shelter. The contact for the shelter is Ruth at (419) 619-8990 or Gloria at (419) 351-1002.

The Hancock County EMA director has begun his preliminary damage assessment although the water is still high. Most of the structures were the same ones impacted in the August 2007 flood. Local officials are concerned with debris management as the water recedes. Most of the local trucks have been set up to remove snow and are not configured for effective debris removal. The Hancock County Sheriff has declared a Level III snow emergency to limit traffic in the impacted areas- this is proving to be an effective measure according to law enforcement. The city of Findlay Call Center number is 419-424-7000. A boil alert for drinking water has been declared in the city of Findlay.

The Hancock County Sheriff's office deployed the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) communication vehicle today to the county EOC. The vehicle remains on-scene indefinitely.

Hardin County: The County is in the process of identifying the damages in the village of McGuffey. It appears to be the only area in the county that was impacted by high waters. The village is currently working through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) process but has not completed it yet.

Henry County: The County has a verbal county declaration. Water is going down in tributaries. There is a shelter open at Harvest Fellowship Church as a precaution. State Route 24 is closed around Grand Rapids. No evacuations ordered at this time. The EOC will be open during normal business hours today.

Highland County: Damage reports from high winds include two unoccupied mobile homes flipped over, two occupied mobile homes moved off their foundations and multiple roofs 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.

Marion County: In the village of La Rue, the Kiwanis Retirement Center evacuated 26 individuals. The American Red Cross has shelter operations set up at Dry Lane Road in the village of La Rue.

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 and are expected to remain so for the next day. No significant weather-related issues at this time.

Mercer County: The County has declared an emergency effective 1:15 p.m. on February 6, 2008. 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.

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 flooding. 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. Portage County is coordinating a sandbagging request with Ohio EMA.

Putnam County: At 1:13 p.m. February 7, 2008, the county EMA director advised the state EOC of a county-wide declaration of emergency. Sandbags are being filled in the village of Ottawa garage by county fire fighters in anticipation of requests. The County will determine the need for sandbags from Ohio EMA. The county EOC will remain open overnight.

Seneca County: The County has advised Ohio EMA that it is in the process of a county-wide declaration. Water levels are reported to be higher in Tiffin and surrounding areas than in the August event. Evacuations are complete with around 15 persons having been evacuated. Numerous local roads are still closed. A local fire department conducted swift water rescue to evacuate 10 people in Tiffin.

Tuscarawas County: The County is currently experiencing minor flooding issues. The following roads are closed due to high water: Somderdale Road, Winklepleck Road, Dueber Road and Sandyville Road (both ends).

### **BRIEFING/SITREP DATA**

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 8, 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](mailto:eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us) **no later than 2:00 p.m. each day for inclusion in the Situation Report.**