



**STATE OF OHIO**  
Emergency Operations Center  
**SITUATION REPORT**

Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director  
Emergency Management Agency

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Ted Strickland, Governor  
**FROM:** Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
**SUBJECT:** March 2008 Heavy Rains  
**DATE:** March 19, 2008

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This is the first Sitrep for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

**GENERAL SITUATION**

On March 19, heavy rains statewide produced moderate flooding, with heavy significance to the Miami, Scioto, and Muskingum river basins. Three county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) are open to support local response operations.

In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 7:00 a.m. this morning, Wednesday, March 19, 2008. A Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefing was conducted in the SEOC Assessment Room at 10:00 a.m. today. The next scheduled CAS Level 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow in the SEOC Assessment Room.

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

**DECLARATIONS**

County: Butler, Hamilton, Tuscarawas, and Warren

**WEATHER**

Weather Summary

- Total rainfall will likely end up between 4-6 inches in far southwest Ohio. Expect between 2-4 inches of rain in portions of central, south-central and eastern Ohio.

- The storm is expected to leave the area tonight.
- No major flooding expected at this time anywhere in the state, but several points in the Moderate category.
- Mainly minor flooding on Ohio River downstream from Marietta.
- Next system later Friday and early Saturday will be weaker.

### General Forecast

Today, rain will fall heavily at times as low pressure tracks through the state. Temperatures will begin to fall behind the storm later today, and a brief period of snow is possible in the north this evening. Tonight will be foggy and cold with lows in the 20s and 30s. Expect fair skies on Thursday, with snow showers in northeast Ohio. Another storm will bring rain and snow to Ohio by Friday.

### Current (as of 4:30 p.m.) Warnings and Watches As Reported by NOAA

The following counties are under a Flood Warning: Adams, Allen, Athens, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Lake, Licking, Lorain, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Paulding, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Ross, Sandusky, Seneca, Scioto, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Williams, and Wood.

The following counties are under a Flood Watch: Adams, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Green, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hardin, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Licking, Logan, Madison, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Tuscarawas, Union, Vinton, Warren, Washington, and Wyandot.

Butler, Hamilton, and Warren counties are under a Flash Flood Warning.

## **STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

#### Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation is currently showing 46 flood related closures with 25 restrictions statewide. The majority of closures are in Athens, Perry, Tuscarawas, and Vinton. Counties hardest hit with closures are Athens with five, Tuscarawas with four, and Perry and Vinton both with three each. Holmes has nine restricted routes.

The slip on IS-275 in Clermont County has been cleared. ODOT has a new slip reported in Brown County near mile post 17(just west of Three Mile Creek Road) on US 52. This slip is reported to be 100' long by 20' high. The District is checking into leasing additional equipment to reduce the time US 52 is closed. ODOT and Ohio State Highway Patrol Post 8 units from Georgetown were on-scene.

ODOT has no current mission requests outside our normal inventory routes at this time. For details on roadway closures see [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org).

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

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

ODNR reported that a Class III Dam in Berkshire Township (Delaware County) has breached. South Galena Road was closed by the Delaware County Engineer. ODNR Dam Safety staff was on-scene today to inspect the dam and met with the Delaware County Engineer's Office. The dam has partially failed (spillway conduit exposed completely) and trees on dam have toppled. ODNR reported the dam breach is approximately 5 feet wide, 10-12 feet deep at crest maximum section, and 100-150 feet in total length. No substantial damage to downstream structures due to a total dam breach is expected at this time.

#### Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Ohio EPA reported that its Spill Response Hotline has received more than 80 reports within the last 48 hours of overflows and/or bypassing caused by precipitation and/or flooding from wastewater treatment facilities across the state.

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

#### Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC is monitoring sheltering and mass care operations, and has staff available to assist.

The Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is available for assistance as requested by calling 740-509-1132.

The Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services has nothing significant to report at this time.

Community Emergency Response Team volunteers in Gallia, Jackson, and Vinton counties are on standby.

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

#### Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH has nothing significant to report at this time.

### **ESF 11 – Agriculture**

#### Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

ODA has nothing significant to report at this time.

### **ESF 12 – Energy**

#### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

PUCO has nothing significant to report at this time.

### **ESF 13 – Law Enforcement**

#### Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

OSHP Wilmington District 8 reported the Sharonville Drivers Examination Station is flooded with two feet of water and sewage. Employees were diverted to Examination Stations in Seven Hills and Lebanon. Efforts are being made to secure electronic equipment. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is also closed until further notice due to water damage.

OSHP reported that US 52 between Ripley and Aberdeen in Brown County is completely closed due to mud and debris sliding. Post 8 units in Georgetown and the Ohio Department of Transportation are on-scene.

### **COUNTY IMPACTS**

The following county reports are current as of 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

The counties listed below have reported typical high water with no significant issues:

Adams, Allen, Athens, Auglaize, Clark, Columbiana, Coshocton, Defiance, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Geauga, Guernsey, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Highland, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Portage, Richland, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Vinton and Wood.

Counties reporting high water and flooding are as following:

**Butler County:** The county EOC is activated until at least 6:00 p.m. tonight. Approximately 50 people were evacuated last night due to high water. Evacuees sought shelter with family and friends. The streets affected were located on Tallawanda, Martin, and Rose Lea avenues. The American Red Cross has one shelter open at the Princeton Pike Church of Christ, 6101 Princeton-Glendale Road. An American Red Cross shelter has been staged at the St. Clair Township Fire Department in Hamilton. Capacity level is 150-160 people. Currently, there is no population at the shelter. County EOC is not activated. EMA is working to curtail misinformation being released through the media. The County has no requests. Butler County has a stash of sleeping cots and blankets if Warren County needs them.

**Clinton County:** The EOC is not activated at this time. The County reported that creeks and ditches are coming out of their banks causing numerous road closures. Clarksville and Sabina have been hit the hardest with rising waters. Cowan Creek's water ran out of the banks and into the area of First Street and surrounded four homes and closed Creek Road. Ten residents from Clarksville were evacuated, but no shelter has been opened at this time. Evacuees sought shelter with family and friends. Evacuees of the four homes were evacuated to safety by boat. Sabina had high water on its main road in the village, with some spots with two feet deep. The County reported one fatality: a Wilmington-area woman's car was swept away after she tried to drive through high water. The Coroner has yet to rule on cause of death.

**Hamilton County:** The EOC is not activated at this time. There is a voluntary evacuation happening at this time. There are two shelters currently open at the Hoover Elementary School

and Parkside Church in Hamilton. Many homes in the county are dealing with basement flooding and sewer back-up. The County reported one fatality. The Coroner has yet to rule on cause of death. The County continues to monitor the Little Miami and Great Miami in the Whitewater Township area. The county EMA is currently coordinating a meeting with local officials to assess the situation and determine future actions.

Pickaway County: The County reported no issues at this time. EMA staff will be assessing Mobile Home Parks this afternoon with the Circleville Fire Chief to make sure propane tanks are secure. State Route 722 at US 23 & 104 is closed. There are many townships roads closed due to high water.

Ross County: Approximately 50 persons have been affected by high water. The American Red Cross has one shelter open at the Scioto Township Shelter located at 161 S. Watt Street in Chillicothe. Another American Red Cross shelter is on standby at the Church of Christ in Yellowbud. The shelter is expected to open later this afternoon.

Scioto County: The County is under a Flood Watch through tonight. Conditions are stabilizing. New flood crests are lower than initially predicted. Flood pumps are still operating normally. Up to two inches of rain has fallen in the area since Tuesday afternoon. An additional 1-2 inches is possible today. The Ohio River is predicted to crest at 51.5' at Portsmouth, which is one foot above flood stage here. Flash flooding along creeks and streams will be monitored closely today.

Tuscarawas County: The county EOC will be open until further notice. Army Corps of Engineers representative, Denis Chabot is expected to arrive within the day. The County has created a 20 line Road Closure Emergency Information Number for the general public and has posted a link to the Sheriff's website on the EMA website, which has a list of road closures. Michael Lane area has about 50 homes that are cut off to vehicle traffic, but foot access still exists. The County is preparing for expected isolation of Zoarville. The American Red Cross shelter has been placed on stand-by.

Warren County: The county EOC was activated early this morning. County commissioners have verbally declared an emergency proclamation. Union Township and Salem Township (Morrow) are discussing local declarations as well. An Ohio EMA Field Liaison was deployed to the county today at the request of Warren County EMA.

Earlier today, the Lebanon Patrol Post was advised by the Warren County Communications Center that Morrow police officers were going door-to-door in the village of Morrow advising residents of the high water in the area. Officials were considering an evacuation as a precautionary measure.

The Warren County Communications Center also advised that the American Red Cross has opened up a shelter at the First Baptist Church at 505 West Mason-Morrow-Milgrove Road in Morrow. The Warren County Communications Center also advised that the village of South Lebanon officials are considering possible evacuation there as well due to the high water.

### **BRIEFING/SITREP DATA**

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 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).