



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

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**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 21, 2008

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This is the third SitRep for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2008.

**INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

March 18-19: Heavy rains statewide produced moderate flooding, with impacts in the Miami, Scioto, and Muskingum river basins.

March 19: In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 7:00 a.m. Four county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) were activated to support local response operations. These same four counties reported declaring county-level emergencies due to flooding.

March 20: Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefings have been conducted in the SEOC Assessment Room at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. since its activation. Three of the four counties commenced damage assessments. Two weather-related fatalities were confirmed by the Gallia and Hamilton County Coroners. The third weather-related death was in Clinton County and confirmation of the cause of death is not expected for another week.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

Floodwaters are receding. Only three points along the Scioto River remain at the moderate flood level. Both private sector and public damage assessments continue and all shelters are closed. The SEOC Assessment Room will remain open as needed over the weekend. This determination to remain open will be made before the end of each shift based on communication with county Emergency Management Agencies.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will continue to monitor the situation for any changes in cooperation with federal, state, and local partners.

## **DECLARATIONS**

County: Butler, Hamilton, Tuscarawas, and Warren.

## **WEATHER**

### Weather Summary

Many flood warnings in western Ohio will continue to be canceled through today and tonight. Three points on the Scioto River are still in moderate flood stage, all but one are falling. At Prospect the river will crest tonight and slowly fall. Muskingum Basin rivers and streams will steadily fall over the next 24 hours, though they can be expected to fall more slowly due to upstream reservoir releases. The Ohio River is falling, but is expected to rise again to near or at flood stage late Saturday night or Sunday.

There are Winter Storm Warnings in the far northwest corner of the state and Winter Weather Advisories across the northern third of the state. A clipper system today and tomorrow will be weaker. Snow amounts in northern Ohio may range from 3"- 6" today and tonight and from 1"- 3" possible north of a line from Sidney to Columbus. Mainly rain, less than 0.25", is anticipated to the south in the state. It is not expected that this precipitation will aggravate the current situation other than slowing the drop in river levels.

### Warnings and Watches

#### ***Flood Warnings***

Allen, Athens, Coshocton, Defiance, Franklin, Fulton, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hocking, Holmes, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Putnam, Scioto, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Wayne, Williams, and Wood counties.

#### ***Winter Storm Warning***

Williams and Fulton counties.

## **STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

#### Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Roadways continue to open as anticipated, and are currently down to 50 closures with 10 restrictions statewide. This is an improvement from the 63 closed and 18 restricted reported during this morning's briefing.

ODOT has determined SR 7 in Washington County to be unsafe and closed the roadway pending additional subsurface investigations. This has been reflected in BuckeyeTraffic.org with the recommended detours.

Some snow/ice and wet roadway conditions are being reported in northwest Ohio as a result of the anticipated weather front. ODOT District 2, Bowling Green, has 40 plow crews working this event. Additional crews remain ready as this snow spreads across the northern part of the state later today.

**ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works**

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

**ESF 6 – Mass Care**

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio VOAD

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Nothing significant to report at this time.

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

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

**ESF 11 – Agriculture**

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

**ESF 12 – Energy**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

## **ESF 13 – Law Enforcement**

### Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

## **ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation**

### Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB)

Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch staff continue to engage the four declared counties, providing technical assistance on collecting and analyzing private sector damage assessments. Receipt of final private sector damage assessments is anticipated early next week.

## **ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs**

### Ohio Department of Public Safety

Public Affairs assisted in coordination of Governor Strickland's visit to impacted areas in southwest Ohio last night. The number of incoming national media calls have remained steady due to interest in Midwestern U.S. flooding in general.

## **COUNTY IMPACTS**

### Tuscarawas County

The EOC was open last night and today. The EMA anticipates limited EOC activity on Saturday, but has not determined what the EOC status will be overnight. There are no shelters open at this time, but the American Red Cross is on standby if needed. No evacuations have been ordered. All evacuations to this point have been self-initiated. There are several roads closed to the Tusky Valley School and it may take up to three weeks to restore access. The school itself has not been impacted. Small pockets of residences became isolated near SR 800, north of Dover Dam. Evacuation has not been necessary.

### Warren County

The county will continue damage assessment on Monday. The EOC will not be open past normal working hours and there is no plan to open on Saturday. Public road damage has not yet been assessed.

### Hamilton County

Damage assessments are continuing today with assistance from Ohio EMA Field Liaison, Keven Clouse. EOC not expected to be open overnight or Saturday. The two shelters will close today.

### Butler County

Conditions are improving. Damage assessment figures are expected to be available to Ohio EMA by this afternoon.

### Clinton County

Evacuees are back in their homes at this time.

Ross County

The shelter in Yellowbud is closed and the other shelter at Scioto Township Hall is expected to close today due to no population.

Perry County

One family took shelter with relatives due to Jonathan Creek at the Village of Glenford going out of its banks and impacting homes on one street. The Mayor of Glenford reported the possibility of minor debris issues to the county EMA as the water recedes.

Morgan County

**Correction:** The March 20, 2008 Situation Report erroneously stated that Morgan County would “likely not declare.” It should have read at the time: “Morgan County is assessing the situation and considering the need to declare a county-level emergency.”

**BRIEFING/SITREP DATA**

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2008. The SEOC Assessment Room will remain open as needed.

All agencies should email their briefing reports and updates to: [eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us).