



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
SITUATION REPORT

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John R. Kasich, Governor
FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency
SUBJECT: Heavy Rains – February 2011
DATE: March 1, 2011

Information in this Situation Report is current as of 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

In response to the “Heavy Rains – February 2011” event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated to a Crisis Action Level 2 (CAS-2) on Monday, February 28, 2011.

CAS-2 briefings were held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today. The next CAS-2 briefing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

This is the second Situation Report for this incident. The SEOC Assessment Room will be staffed overnight to assist county EMAs.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Heavy rains and thunderstorms moved through the state overnight February 27-28 as 3-4 inches of rain accumulated over a 24 hour period in already saturated areas across northern Ohio. This system exited the state and a second wave of precipitation moved through southern Ohio later in the day. Warm temperatures, heavy snow pack and snow melt resulted in moderate to major flooding in areas of the state.

One weather-related fatality has been confirmed in Huron County. A woman from North Fairfield was swept away in her car by flood waters yesterday (Refer to ESF-9 report for additional details).

An EF1 tornado near Millersport in Fairfield County was confirmed by the NWS on Monday, February 28. Impacts included damages to a farm, barns, metal grain bin, trees, and two residences resulting in a roof and an exterior wall being destroyed. The tornado path was 75 yards wide and 2.4 miles in length.

Currently there are 4 shelters open throughout the state with a total population of 24.

Preliminary damage assessments are being conducted today in affected counties.

The State Emergency Operations Center Joint Information Center became operational today.

The State Emergency Operations Center continues to monitor river crests for impacts, including potential issues with debris, waste water, sewage, and shelters.

Major to moderate flood river levels are being reported in northern Ohio and also minor flooding in southern Ohio. Some rivers in Ohio are still slowly rising and flooding continues to be a problem. A Flood Warning is in effect for 47 counties throughout the state.

There are no unmet needs being reported at this time. There have been no additional requests for state or federal assistance. Ohio EMA filled a request to Auglaize County for 10,000 sand bags on February 28.

DECLARATIONS

County: Auglaize, Lorain, Mercer, Morrow, Richland, and Seneca.

WEATHER

Today: Flood warnings remain in effect for areas throughout Ohio. High pressure is the dominant weather feature today. High pressure will build in over the next several days bringing sunshine and more seasonable temperatures.

Tonight: Temperatures tonight should fall into the mid to upper 20s in the north and mid to low 30s in the south.

Future forecast: No additional forecast precipitation until Saturday. River levels may still be high but receding.

The following 47 counties are under National Weather Service Flood Warnings in Ohio due to flooding: Ashland, Ashtabula, Auglaize, Carroll, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hancock, Henry, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Lake, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Field staff continues to assist county officials with response related needs. Field Operations anticipates deployment of field liaisons to Richland and Hancock counties tomorrow.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS BY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF)

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation is currently reporting 83 flood-related road closures of rural State and US routes throughout northern and south eastern Ohio. In addition ODOT reports seven routes as restricted. Crews are maintaining detour signs and performing maintenance issues as needed when flood waters recede. To view current flood-related road closures, go to www.buckeyetraffic.org.

The Independence Garage in Cuyahoga County is the only reported facility with damage. The garage was evacuated yesterday, but returned to normal operations today. ODOT Facilities Section will provide damage estimates later today.

ODOT also received a report of erosion damage along US 27 in Butler County.

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

OSHP has investigated 10 weather-related crashes in the state since Monday afternoon. None of the crashes reported involved serious injury or death.

ESF 2 – Communications

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

The Ohio MARCs tower at Carey in Wyandot County has returned to normal operation. The tower shelter has been cleared of flood waters, and full communications coverage has been restored to the area. There have been no requests made to reserve ECOMM communications channels for weather-related activities.

Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) Communications vehicles remain on standby to support regional interoperability communications requests.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR reports flooding-related impact to the following state park facilities:

Lake County- Headlands Beach is closed due to flooded roads/parking lots

Mercer County- Lake Loramie - dredge sank in 6 feet of water

Richland County- Mohican's camping check-in building is under water

Columbiana County- Beaver Creek reports large volume of grills and picnic tables washed away

Ashtabula County- The main roadway to Pymatuning Creek’s campground suffered damage from washed out culverts

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Ohio EPA continues to receive reports of sewage overflows/bypasses due to rain or flooding. EPA anticipates debris will become a more significant issue as flood waters recede.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Ohio Emergency Management ESF-6 staff continues to monitor and support mass care activities.

American Red Cross (ARC)

As of 2:00 p.m. the American Red Cross reports the following shelter activity in the National Shelter System (NSS).

Shelter Name	County	Shelter Type (Overnight/warming)	Shelter population
Hancock County Area on Aging	Hancock	Overnight	14
Dry Lane Construction	Marion	Overnight	Awaiting confirmation
Trinity United Methodist Church	Putnam	Overnight	6
United Methodist Church in Ottawa	Richland	Overnight	4

As of 2:00 p.m. today:

Total Shelters Reported: 4

Shelter Population Reported: 24 in 3 shelters

Ohio VOAD

Ohio VOAD is in the process of supplying an unspecified number of flood buckets to Hancock County at their request.

Volunteers are available to assist counties with clean up, debris removal, and volunteer reception center staffing. Ohio VOAD member organizations have an inventory of flood clean-up kits available. Spiritual/emotional care and feeding units are also available by member organizations.

The public should contact Lutheran Services/Ohio VOAD at (740) 732-6700 to report any needs.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH continues to monitor the flooding situation and any impact on local health departments. There are no open missions at this time.

ESF 9 – Search & Rescue

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR Watercraft units and Sheriff's Office in Marion County are staged at LaRue and Prospect for response if necessary. Watercraft units in Huron County and local fire departments recovered a missing vehicle swept from the road yesterday in Norwalk. The vehicle was swept off South Norwalk Road and under the Route 61 bridge, traveled downstream approximately 100 yards, and sank in about 15 feet water. The deceased 51-year-old female was removed from the vehicle this morning and the vehicle was tied off and left in the streambed.

ODNR has no report from the Blanchard River in Findlay (Hancock County).

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

An Ohio EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has responded two reports from Auglaize County EMA regarding two releases with significant sheen on flood waters in St. Marys River. There was also a report of a sheen emanating from a building in Wooster (Wayne County). A clean-up contractor is en-route. An Ohio EPA OSC will follow up as necessary.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

ODA reports that a meat processing facility in Wapakoneta is closed due to flooding in the facility. ODA Meat Inspection will be in the plant prior to start up once the flood waters recede.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

As of 2:00 p.m. today, all electric and Rural Electric Cooperative homes and businesses across Ohio have been restored to minimal outage levels.

Dayton, Power & Light customers on the St. Marys Substation have also been restored through a tap to a different circuit and through a tie-in with a Rural Electric Cooperative grid.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Mitigation Branch

The Mitigation Branch continues to coordinate with ODNR on substantial damage inspection needs.

The Mitigation Branch is continuing to reach out to current and past mitigation project managers to identify and document success stories from mitigation projects implemented throughout the State.

The branch is receiving reports from North Royalton (Cuyahoga County) on the successful performance of a stormwater project that prevented flood damage to dozens of structures, and a residential retrofit project that protected three residential structures.

At the request of the Planning and Information Section, the Mitigation Branch conducted a HAZUS analysis of the Cuyahoga River in the vicinity of Valley View and Independence, Ohio. Data from the analysis was distributed to Section Coordinators and compared to actual events.

Disaster Recovery Branch

The Debris Fact Sheet for Local Officials was emailed to all county EMA offices on Tuesday, March 1. Staff has engaged with multiple counties and provided technical assistance on the topic of Damage Assessment for both the private and public sectors.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Floodplain Management Program

Staff continues ongoing coordination with the Floodplain Managers in the affected jurisdictions to offer technical assistance on conduction substantial damage determinations. Substantially damaged structures must comply with current local flood damage reduction regulations. Structures in the floodplain should not be repaired without first obtaining a permit from the local floodplain administrator.

The city of Independence is reporting not many substantially-damaged structures. Most communities that are coordinating with the Floodplain Management Program are reporting minimal damage to structures at this time. The Floodplain Management Program participated in the County's Director's conference call at 3:30 today.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

The Joint Information Center (JIC) is now operational. Ohio Department of Insurance Jarrett Dunbar is assisting the operations. Media inquiries should be directed to (614) 799-6480.

The Virtual JIC continues to field media calls at the local and national level. Ohio EMA conducted interviews with Fox News and CBS Evening News. There were nine media calls fielded by the JIC today.

County EMA PIOs report that preliminary damage assessment numbers should start coming in as early as tomorrow. Ohio EMA Public Affairs Officer Tamara McBride instructed county EMAs to provide affected residents with Ohio VOAD's contact number for assistance.

The JIC will conduct conference calls with responding state agency PIOs and affected county EMA PIOs one-half hour before the CAS 2 briefings.

JIC has identified the following trends statewide:

- Sewage health safety issues
- Flood insurance enforcement (residents are eligible to purchase flood insurance if county is a participant in the NFIP)
- Dam safety issues

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

The next CAS-2 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Please send Situation Report information to eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us.