



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Strickland, Governor

FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency

SUBJECT: September 2008 Statewide High Winds

DATE: September 15, 2008

This is the first Sitrep for the "Statewide High Winds – September 2008" event. Information is current as of 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2008.

GENERAL SITUATION

On September 14, remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through Ohio with Tropical Storm force winds, causing widespread downing of trees and power lines. As of early afternoon, more than 1,800,000 customers throughout Ohio are without power. Approximately 20 county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) are open to support local response operations.

Five people have died as a result of the wind storm.

- Two motorcyclists were struck by debris while riding in Hueston Woods State Park
- One resident was killed when a tree struck her home
- A contractor was electrocuted while attempting a repair at a youth services facility, Scioto Village.
- A 12-year old child was killed by a falling tree in the City of Lorain around 7:20 pm on 9/14/2008.

A missing boater was reported on Lake Milton. Recovery operations are underway.

In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 6:30 a.m. this morning, Monday, September 15, 2008. A Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefing was conducted in the SEOC Assessment Room at 11:00 a.m. today. A CAS Level 2 briefing was conducted in the SEOC Operations Room at 3:00 p.m. today.

The next scheduled CAS Level 2 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow in the SEOC Operations Room.

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

DECLARATIONS

County: Butler, Clark, Clermont, Delaware, Greene, Hamilton, Knox, Licking, Madison, Montgomery, Morrow, and Seneca.

WEATHER

Weather Summary

The high wind event that occurred on Sunday, September 14th was caused by a combination of the remnants of Hurricane Ike interacting with a cold front moving through the region. The low pressure system which was the remnants of Ike actually increased in intensity as it interacted with the front. The forward speed of movement of the low pressure system was around 65 mph. This low pressure system moved from southeast Missouri Sunday morning to Indianapolis, to near Toledo by Sunday night and then to a position near Montreal, Canada early this morning. This unusual increase in intensity and fast forward motion of the system produced estimated wind gusts in the range of 55 to 75 mph across Ohio.

The highest winds persisted from about 1 PM to about 7 PM on Sunday. The persistence of the higher wind gusts over a period of hours contributed to the widespread wind damage to trees and power lines and wind damage of unknown severity to an unknown number of structures.

General Forecast

An upper level system moving through Ohio today will result in a chance of showers this afternoon, mainly in northern Ohio, and in northeastern Ohio on Tuesday.

High pressure will build in from the west and dominate the weather Tuesday and Wednesday. A weak front will approach the area Wednesday night and dissipate. This will be followed by another high pressure area which will build into the Ohio Valley region and dominate the weather through next weekend.

The result will be dry weather Tuesday, except for a chance of showers in northeast Ohio, and then dry weather statewide Tuesday night through Sunday. The high temperatures will be in the 60s this afternoon and Tuesday and warm into the mid and upper 70s to around 80 by Saturday and Sunday. The lows will be in the 40s and 50s.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation crews worked overnight clearing debris from roadways with work continuing statewide today. ODOT is currently showing 23 roadways closed or restricted due to wind storm damage. For details on roadway closures see www.buckeyetraffic.org.

ODOT Field Districts were surveyed for storm related information and reported as follows:

District One - All debris missions were completed overnight with all roadways open. All facilities have power and traffic signals are in operation.

District Two- Crews are working debris missions in Seneca County. No roadways closed. Minor damage reported at the ODOT facility in Seneca County. They have one signal out on US 224 and US 23.

District Three - Crews are working debris missions in Ashland, Crawford, Lorain, Medina, Richland and Wayne counties. Currently there are four State Routes closed for debris removal. All facilities have power with minor damage reported at ODOT facilities in Huron and Medina Counties. They report seven signals without power.

District Four - Crews continue cleanup operations in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Portage, Summit, and Stark counties. All facilities are on commercial power except Summit which remains on generator. They are reporting the following closures, ATB 6, TRU 5, MAH 165, POR 44, SUM 21, and SUM 18. District four is reporting 41 traffic signals out due to no power.

District Five - Multiple crews continue storm damage clean up. Knox and Perry counties are on auxiliary generators at this time. No reported signals out.

District Six - Crews continue debris removal missions. District six headquarters and the Fifth Ave. outpost are on generator power. Two Madison County outposts have no power. It is estimated that seventy-five traffic signals are out due to electrical service loss. Critical intersections are being supplied with generator backup as available.

District Seven - Crews working debris missions in Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Logan, Miami, Montgomery and Shelby counties. Montgomery County is on generator power, the remaining counties are on commercial power. It is estimated sixty signals are out.

District Eight- All facilities are on commercial power. Damage reported to Preble, Greene, Warren, Hamilton and Clermont County Garages. Approximate three hundred traffic signals are out.

District Nine - Crews are working debris missions in Ross County. All on commercial power. Minor damage to Highland and Ross County Facilities. Two signals are reported out.

District Ten - One crew working debris mission. No damage reported, all traffic lights operable.

District Eleven - Crews worked overnight clearing roadways. No facility damages. Two facilities on generator power. All traffic signals are operating or are on generator power.

District Twelve - Debris missions continue, no damage to facilities reported. All operating via generator or commercial power. They are reporting four signals out.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR has nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Public Water Supply:

Numerous public water systems are on backup power and several dealing with operational challenges. A Lake County system issued a precautionary advisory. They lost power from both primary and secondary sources, and their generator also failed. Without power, they could not monitor system pressure, and issued an advisory as a precaution. Sampling has been initiated in Lake County to verify safety, and with results back late today. The areas affected are in Painesville, Madison, and Perry Townships.

There are systems in SW & Central Ohio dealing with issues of extended term operations on secondary power and/or obtaining water supplied from other systems. They are coordinating with the Dayton and Columbus Offices which are monitoring. EPA staff will continue to conduct outreach to public water systems public water systems.

Subsequent to the PM briefing, EPA received a report that public water supply in Twin City (Tuscarawas County) is without power and has no backup supply. A generator has been identified with transportation underway.

Wastewater:

Staff is surveying sewage treatment facilities, assessing problems with loss of power to plants and pump stations.

EPA received numerous reports of sewage overflows and bypasses from loss of power. Backup power is a requirement for design; however, older facilities without backup or those with second service or backup from grid may be out as well. Staff is still gathering information, but they have not received any reports of significant problems. Without significant rainfall, which usually accompanies overflows, there may be increased impact to surface waters.

Debris:

Staff is reaching out to provide technical assistance on debris as needed to local health, counties, and solid waste facilities.

Note:

The Logan Ohio EPA Office is without power, and staff is operating via cell phone and MARCS radio.

ESF 4 – Firefighting

Ohio Department of Commerce (ODC)

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal is reporting damage to the roof of the main building as a result of high winds.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC staff is monitoring the situation and is communicating with support agencies. Ohio Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units have been contacted to assess volunteer activity. Shelter assessment is underway.

NW Ohio - the Volunteer Center is open and reported the 211 system is functioning. They have not noticed any surge in calls asking for information or help. This covers Lucas, Wood, Ottawa and Erie counties.

NE Ohio - the Volunteer Center phones are not working at this time.

Central / SW Ohio – Due to power outages, phones are not working at FIRSTLINK.

Ohio Medical Reserve Corps

All MRC Unit Coordinators have been notified about EOC activity and put on standby.

Clark County: The MRC Coordinator has activated volunteers to help with damage assessment and Tetanus boosters for injuries. They are directing people to check with physicians to see if boosters are needed. Assistance is being coordinated through local EMA.

Cincinnati / Tristate MRC: researching shelter support

Champaign County: The MRC Coordinator has contacted volunteers to be on alert in case the EMA opens a shelter for special needs. Approximately fifteen oxygen patients have lost power and if it is not restored by tomorrow (9/16/08) they will need to be sheltered. Coordinator will report if assistance is needed.

Franklin County: MRC has reported activation with ARC shelters.

Greene County: The MRC Coordinator has been contacted about supporting ARC shelter in Xenia – Edison with 1 LPN and 1 RN per shift.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Greene County: Xenia – Edison shelter is open.

Montgomery County: no report.

This information is not inclusive of entire state, but only areas where surveys have been completed. These shelters are either open or plan to open.

Hamilton County: 4 shelters

Montgomery County: 2 shelters

Knox County: 2 shelters

Licking County: 1 shelter

Fairfield County: 1 shelter

Franklin County: discussion on opening 1 shelter

Salvation Army

Salvation Army, in conjunction with Ohio VOAD, is overseeing the feeding/care of eighty-five seniors in a Salvation Army high rise residence in Cincinnati.

Salvation Army has established a canteen and is working with the Area Office on Aging/Meals on Wheels program.

In Coshocton County, a facility is ready to be opened for sheltering and showers.

Ohio VOAD

Volunteers are available as unmet needs are identified. They can assist with debris removal, feeding or other volunteer tasks.

Doug Dowson reports that the Great Cincinnati area has debris removal needs, but no formal call for volunteers.

Roy Nelson, Ohio Disaster Response Coordinator for Adventist Community Services, contacted OCSC about assisting with donations collection and distribution.

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)

Mental Health coordinators have been notified as to potential need for volunteers.

Ohio Department of Aging

If anyone has an emergency, they should use the normal emergency channels (eg 911).

If there are other needs, call 1-866-243-5678 and they will be directed to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) that they are calling from during business hours. If outside that area, call the AAA that services the area. More information can be found at <http://goldenbuckeye.com/about/aaa.html>

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

ODJFS has experienced wind damage to one facility located at 4020 East Fifth Avenue in Columbus (Franklin County). Damage does not pose an immediate threat to staff.

The following ODJFS offices throughout the state are closed due to the lack of electricity:

Cincinnati Call Center & One Stop
Dayton Call Center & One Stop
Clermont County One Stop
Clinton & Greene Counties One Stop
Montgomery County One Stop
Highland County One Stop
Franklin County One Stop
Stark County One Stop
Chillicothe

As of this morning ODJFS has been experiencing network connectivity and telephone outages in the following eighteen counties: Ashtabula, Butler, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Harrison, Highland, Holmes, Miami, Montgomery, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull.

All ODJFS staff affected have been asked to report to alternate facilities or they may take leave to cover the absence.

Ohio Department of Insurance

ODI is in the process of telling consumers to document any damage and call their insurance agent to begin the claims process. Consumers are only to do this if authorities have deemed it safe to do so and if it will not endanger them. Residents are urged to be cautious of scams. Other information can be found at www.ohioinsurance.gov or the consumer hotline 1-800-686-1526.

ODI contacted insurance companies about the situation through a memo. The memo states what the department expects from them during this situation. ODI understands they are overwhelmed with requests from Texas regarding Hurricane Ike. They asked that companies respond to Ohio customers in a timely manner. If they are having staffing issues, they should contact ODI.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

DAS has received numerous requests for generators:

Miami County - 5kw

Green Co. - twelve 150kw

Montgomery - 500kw generators (for dialysis centers; life-threatening situations)

Generators have not been available since demand has been very high in the southern states impacted by hurricanes. ESF-7 is still pursuing sources.

Grainger (Columbus) recently advised it may have several 5500 watt generators for sale. If ordered ASAP, they could be available tomorrow 9/16/08 a.m.

There have also been requests for water containers and water transport.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Reported at the 11:00 am CAS 1 briefing.

ODH has two problem areas at this time:

1. ODH lab is without power on the ODA campus in Reynoldsburg. Essential processes are being conducted; many tests can not be conducted.
2. Fairfield County Health Department is closed due to the loss of power.

Reported at the 3:00 pm CAS 2 briefing.

The ODH lab is now under full power on the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture campus.

The incident manager for the incident will have a person at the ESF 8 desk for the remainder of the event to deal with food, private water and sewage issues.

At this time ODH Environmental Health has dealt with six counties and two city health departments on these issues. ODH Environmental Health will be updating all public service announcements to reflect the problems encountered by the local health departments during the restoration of power for the next few days.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Staff are responding or following up on several reports of leaking pole-mounted electrical transformers, and one report of residential fuel storage tank spill due to fallen trees and wind.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

As of 2:35 p.m. today, ODA Campus grid power has been restored. Agriculture Campus operations and critical State Laboratory functions (Agriculture, Health and EPA) are being brought back on-line at this time.

Division of Food Safety:

It is too early to tell if there is any damage to food and if any food needs to be discarded. The local health departments are currently working with grocery stores.

Livestock Environmental Permitting Program:

Ten empty buildings at “Ohio Fresh Eggs”, Croton facilities, collapsed due to wind during their remodeling process. No loss of poultry – not occupied. Forty of one hundred sixty (160) facilities that were inspected reported generators are in operation, and a few reported grid power has been restored. Inspectors continue to check status of remaining facilities.

Division of Meat Inspection:

There are a number of establishments scattered throughout the state without power. Central, Southwest, West Central (Dayton, Springfield), East Central (Tuscarawas).

A number of meat inspection establishments are using backup generators. Some are looking for backup generators and those plants will be identified in a later report.

Several establishments are closed in East Central (Strasburg Meats, Strasburg, Tilton's, Newcomerstown).

All plants continue working in Northwest, North Central, Southeast and Northern (Cleveland), with no major problems reported.

A concern at this time is the loss of power and the impact to perishable products unless establishments can find portable refrigeration or find an establishment that has refrigerators to hold product.

Enforcement Division:

ODA Enforcement Agents found poultry products in a retail outlet being held at 61° (F) for an unknown time period. The establishment agreed to a “voluntary destruction” of product.

ODA will be working with Farm Service Agency (FSA) and OSU Extension Service for crop and agribusiness damage reports.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Statewide Power Outages Total: 1,809,918

AEP Ohio

There are scattered outages throughout the state with a total of 601,700 customers. Assessment is on-going, initial assessment indicates possible full restoration in seven (7) days.

DP&L

The utility is still receiving outage reports. As of 9:15 a.m. over 225,000 reported out of service. Every area impacted across 24 counties. Over 50 large transmission poles down. No tally yet on number of distribution poles downed. Restoration expected to take into the weekend.

Duke

Approximately 734,500 customers are still without service representing over 4,300 separate outage cases. Currently there are 175 circuit lockouts across Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky. A total of 700 workers will be in the field today restoring service, assessing damage and clearing trees. Additional crews will be arriving tonight from out of state and contractors recalled from the Gulf Coast (final numbers will be available later today). A Duke Energy helicopter will fly lines throughout the area today to help assess the damage. A staging area for outside crews will be established in the Eastgate area east of downtown Cincinnati. Current estimated restoration time is Saturday, 9/20/08.

First Energy

FirstEnergy has requested mutual assistance from the following: GLMA, MAMA and contractors. In addition, they are moving personnel internally from unaffected areas to assist with restoration efforts. Restoration is unknown at this time. Approximately 438,060 customers are without power.

Rural Co-Ops

They are continuing to perform damage assessment. They believe a majority of the customers will be up in the next two or three days with the remaining into the latter part of the week. They are working on obtaining additional support crews from Michigan. Approximately 42,114 customers are without power.

Transportation

Governor's Declaration received and forwarded to electric companies requesting it.

Telephone

Cincinnati Bell reports 10,000 + lines out of service

Windstream reports that 911 callers attempting to reach Licking County PSAP are getting a busy signal. Technicians dispatched.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

OSHP Posts have reported road closures, but no major incidents at this time.

Ohio Homeland Security (OHS)

From the Office of Infrastructure Protection- Buffer Zone Protection Plan: A company in Barberton, Ohio (Summit County) that repackages chemical chlorine for use at municipal water treatment facilities and wastewater treatment facilities has been without power since the wind storm. JCI Jones has several chlorine deliveries scheduled in the next two days to municipal water facilities throughout Ohio. The Business Continuity Coordinator for First Energy has been notified that the company is without power, and repair crews are reportedly on scene at JCI Jones. Possible implications if the deliveries cannot be made include a lack of potable water in several communities.

COUNTY IMPACTS

The following county reports are current as of 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 15, 2008.

The counties listed below have been affected by high winds with no significant issues:

Adams, Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Darke, Defiance, Delaware, Erie, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henry, Highland, Hocking, Holmes, Huron, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Meigs, Miami, Montgomery, Morgan, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Ottawa, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Richland, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Union, Van Wert, Vinton, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wood, and Wyandot.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 2 Briefing: The next CAS 2 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2008. The state EOC Assessment Room staff will continue to monitor the recovery situation in Ohio until conditions improve.

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