



# 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 17, 2008

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This is the Situation Report for Wednesday, September 17, 2008. This information is current as of 6:30 p.m. today.

**The next scheduled CAS Level 3 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 18 in the SEOC Operations Room.**

#### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

September 14: Remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through Ohio with Tropical Storm force winds, causing widespread downing of trees and power lines. At the height of the emergency, over 1.9 million customers throughout Ohio were without electricity.

September 15: In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 6:30 a.m. A Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefing was conducted in the SEOC Assessment Room at 11:00 a.m. Due to an escalation of the event, a CAS Level 2 briefing was held in the SEOC Operations Room at 3:00 p.m. Six persons are confirmed to have died as a result of the storm. A boater was reported missing on Lake Milton, with search operations underway. Governor Strickland declared a State of Emergency. Over 450 school districts throughout Ohio were closed due to the emergency.

September 16: The SEOC Operations Room escalated activation to CAS Level 3 at 11:57 a.m. Twenty-four counties declared county-level emergencies due to high winds.

September 17: The SEOC Operations Room continued operating at CAS Level 3. Two additional counties issued declarations bringing the total to 26 counties declared. Power continues to be restored with fewer than one million customers now reported as being without power. ODOT has reopened all but two state routes. The body of the missing boater in Mahoning County was found, and the Mahoning County Coroner confirmed the death. An official cause of death is not yet issued.

#### DECLARATIONS

County: Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Knox, Licking, Madison, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Preble, Seneca, Stark, Tuscarawas and Warren.

## **WEATHER**

### **General Forecast**

A clear mild day is forecast for Ohio today with sunny skies, light winds and afternoon highs in the 70s. Tonight will be clear with lows mainly in the 50s. On Thursday, highs should range from 70 in the north to 80 in the south with lots of sunshine. The weekend should be clear and mild with plenty of sunshine, high temperatures will be near normal across the state with daytime temperatures in the middle and upper 70s and overnight lows into the 50s.

## **STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

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

The Department of Transportation is clearing blocked roadways to critical facilities in Warren county and townships. In Greene County, the priority removal missions are completed and standard hauling/removal from staging locations will be completed, as ODOT resources are available.

The following state routes remain closed due to this event:

- In Delaware County State Route 315 in both directions is closed between Home Road and Hyatts Road so crews can repair downed power lines and restore electrical service.
- In Ross County, SR772 is closed near CR 159 (Bishop Hill Road), south of Chillicothe, due to downed power lines.

ODOT reports that 109 of the 1375 ODOT operated traffic signals are still dark.

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

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

ODNR continues to work on the six received missions. Four debris management missions are being worked in Greene (two missions), Montgomery and Warren counties. One water storage mission is in progress in Greene County. Showers and restrooms are provided at Indian Lake State Park for Logan Co. residents. ODNR Division of Parks, Indian Lake SP Manager Frank Giannola is coordinating with Logan Co. EMA.

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

In Montgomery County, ODOT is preparing to assist the city of Dayton with lifting heavy tree stumps from roadways/sidewalks to City trucks for hauling. Both ODOT missions are being assessed by ODOT Districts for assignment.

In Greene County the priority removal missions have been completed, standard hauling/removal from staging locations will be completed as ODOT resources are available.

#### **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

##### **Public Water Supply:**

EPA Staff provided a list of Public Water Supplies operating on backup generator power and reported that arrangements for fuel re-supply are in place at facilities running on generators. They do not anticipate any fuel shortage problems at this time. EPA Staff will continue to conduct outreach to public water systems, including smaller community water systems serving mobile home parks that may be experiencing issues. EPA will coordinate with ESF-7 on requests for generators for public water system facilities.

Wastewater:

Staff members continue surveying sewage treatment facilities and assessing problems with loss of power to plants and pump stations. OEPA continues coordinating with ODNR on potential impacts from overflows and bypasses.

**ESF 4 – Firefighting**

Ohio Department of Commerce (ODC)

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal has nothing significant to report.

**ESF 5 – Planning and Information**

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Operations Division Director opened a Basic Needs Workgroup meeting today at 2:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center. The meeting was attended by representatives from state and federal government, trade councils and private non-profits. Attendees included the American Red Cross, Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Community Service Council, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio National Guard, Ohio Petroleum Council, Ohio Petroleum Marketer's Association, Public Utilities Commission, Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

The workgroup discussed petroleum, water, food, special needs and medical, generators and debris.

**Petroleum:** Throughout southern Ohio, petroleum supplies are short, but appear to be adequate at this time. Availability of fuel has been compromised due to a lack of supply availability of from the Gulf Coast pipelines or a lack of electricity to make use of existing supplies. Numerous refineries in the Gulf are still not operational, and therefore the pipelines are not pushing product north. In northern Ohio, there are currently no shortfalls. Most of Cleveland has power and Sunoco has one its two terminals in Columbus operational.

Fuel is being provided for emergency vehicles and industry representatives are working hand-in-hand with public safety entities to ensure adequate supply.

**Water:** All missions are closed, with a number of deliveries ongoing to counties. Ohio EMA has received a number of requests for ice.

**Food:** Generally, food supplies are adequate. Where shortages are occurring the SEOC is working with local jurisdictions to fill gaps. Grocers have donated food to homeless shelters and food pantries, VOAD indicated that this has been coordinated and that food stuffs have been distributed to families. VOAD is sending out notices that food banks and food pantries need to be restocked statewide by Monday. The five-day supply of food takes them through Sunday. Ohio EMA and the Basic Needs Workgroup will continue to monitor to ensure food supplies are available.

Ohio Department of Health has issued information to the public on the handling of spoiled food, and local health departments in coordination with the JIC will continue to disseminate this information.

**Special Needs and Medical:** Ohio VOAD stated that Senior Housing 202 and Apartments have not had power restored, and so are using an American Red Cross Shelter which has a medical reserve force. No problems are foreseen.

**Generators:** FEMA has staged generators of various sizes at Rickenbacker ANG Base and MOUs have been drawn up and are ready to be executed.

The Basic Needs Workgroup will meet again on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. A conference bridge 614-387-3141 will be available for the meeting.

## **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

### Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC staff has been coordinating ESF 6 activity from the EOC.

OCSC has distributed by email, the Wind Storm Fact Sheet developed by the Joint Information Center (JIC) to the Ohio Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps coordinators and volunteers in the statewide database.

A Special Needs Shelter opened today in Hamilton County. The shelter is open to persons with functional needs including individuals with impaired mobility, special minor medical needs (assistance with wound care), deafness/hard of hearing, visually impaired and the elderly.

### Ohio Citizen Corps

The situation will continue to be monitored and assistance will be provided as necessary. In northeast Ohio Stark County opened two Red Cross Shelters. Columbiana County is hard hit and schools have opened to provide areas for people who need to operate medical equipment such as oxygen.

### Ohio Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Ohio Medical Reserve Corps units in Champaign, Clark, Greene, Medina, and the Cincinnati-Tri-State area have activated volunteers to support a number of activities. Units are disseminating information, assisting other volunteer organizations, including the American Red Cross, assisting with food drives and pantries, and assisting with feeding operations for the elderly.

### Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)

Community mental health boards have been alerted to shelter locations.

### Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

No information submitted for this Situation Report.

### Ohio Department of Insurance

ODI is starting to get an increase in calls concerning windstorm damage, with particular attention to insurance coverage of debris removal.

### Ohio Department of Aging report to OCSC

Ohio Department of Aging reports the largest home delivered meal provider in Hamilton County has been informed that they might be without power until Monday. The Hamilton County EMA agreed to supply the meal provider with shelf stable meals for delivery. Meals will be delivered to the Area Agency on Aging's meal customers until power has been. Four adult care facilities in NE Ohio have no power. The Regional Ombudsman program is checking on the residents. There

is a senior apartment building in Columbus that is operating on generators. The Columbus Fire Department will be delivering fuel to keep the generators running.

#### Ohio Department of Taxation

The Ohio Department of Taxation issued a press release today announcing that Ohio Tax Commissioner Richard A. Levin announced today is granting extensions to individuals and business taxpayers who have tax returns or bills due this week. The deadline extension – authorized by the tax commissioner per section 5703.35 of the Ohio Revised Code – means that no penalties will be imposed for the late payment or filing of a return or report. However, by law, **interest on late payments cannot be waived.**

The extension is a response to the massive power outages caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ike, which swept through Ohio on Sunday. Because of the commissioner's decision, any Ohio tax payment, report or return due this week may be filed on or before Monday, Sept. 22 without penalty.

Individuals and businesses who qualify for the extension may simply write or type, in bold letters, "Disaster Relief" across the top of a payment check, return or report at the time it is filed. The Ohio Department of Taxation will credit tax accounts accordingly. Today's extension does not apply to payments and returns due on or after Sept. 23, such as the sales and use tax payments and returns due on that day.

#### American Red Cross (ARC)

The American Red Cross reports that numerous shelters are open or on stand-by:

<b>Shelter Name (Id)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Agency Operating Shelter</b>
Blue Ash Air National Guard Station (52592)	Open	10649 McKinley Road Cincinnati, OH 45242	ARC
Central Junior High School(5395)	Open	425 Edison BLVD Xenia, OH 45385	Other
First Baptist Church (70945)	Open	1034 Old State Route 74 Batavia, OH 45103	ARC
First United Methodist Church (64644)	Open	202 West Fourth St. Greenville, OH 45331	ARC
Gasper Fire Station (70958)	Close	4195 Paint Creek Eaton, OH 45320	ARC
Heath Church Of Christ (7503)	Open	1331 Chapel Way Heath, OH 43056	ARC
Lyons Club (70955)	Open	465 Park Dr. Franklin, OH 45005	ARC
Marion County Red Cross (70936)	Open	1849 Summerset Dr Marion, OH 43302	ARC

Shelter Name (Id)	Status	Address	Agency Operating Shelter
Mills Memorial United Methodist Church (70946)	Open	402 N. Broad Street Lancaster, OH 43130	ARC
Ohio EXPO Center - Rhodes (12147)	Open	717 E 17TH AVE Columbus, OH 43211	ARC
Old Butler County Jail (70957)	Open	123 Court Street Hamilton, OH 45011	ARC
The Masonic Temple (70931)	Open	525 W. Riverview Ave Dayton, OH 45405	ARC
West Central School (MRDD) (67999)	Closed	1481 W. Town St Columbus, OH 43223	ARC
Emmett Chapel United Methodist Church (70943)	Stand-by	318 Tarlton Road Circleville, OH 43113	ARC

#### Ohio Department of Education (ODE)

Roger Hart, Ohio Department of Education, provided a briefing on calamity days. ODE is working to collect data on school closings. Food supplies stored at schools could become a potential issue for school districts due to the cost of replacing and any special requirements for the disposal of large amounts of food waste.

#### **ESF 7 – Resource Support**

##### Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

The Department of Administrative Services has no open missions. DAS is actively searching sources for bus transportation services for utility personnel in Clark County and Prepared Meals for Hamilton County.

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

##### Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH is receiving calls for information on food handling and the disposal of bad food. The environmental staff is working on a press release on proper food disposal. On the proactive side and as a matter of interoperability, the ODH Communications Staff conducted a radio check with all hospitals this morning with 26 stations not answering. Follow-up emails were sent to ascertain the cause of the failure.

One hospital in central Ohio is still on emergency power, Mt. Carmel East in Columbus, has no estimate of restoration time.

#### **ESF 9 – Search and Rescue**

Division of Watercraft reports the missing boater was recovered at Lake Milton. As of 07:30, the coroner was on scene. Formal identification of the male victim was made, though as of this report, the coroner had not issued his ruling on the cause of death.

No other Search and Rescue Mission has been initiated.

## **ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials**

### Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Late on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, the U.S. EPA issued a waiver for the Cincinnati /Dayton area from 7.8 RVP gasoline. The new standard is 9.0 RVP, like the rest of Ohio. Terry Fleming from the Petroleum Council was informed, as was Jennifer Rhoads of the Petroleum Marketers.

## **ESF 11 – Agriculture**

### Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

OSU Extension office working with Ohio citizens with questions about molds and storm clean up safety.

Of the meat & poultry processing establishments reported on 09/16/2008 as needing emergency back up generators or refrigeration capabilities; one has resolved their issue and is back in business (Miami County); three new plants added to the list, Richwood Meats in Union County, Lazy Acre Meats in Perry County and Sky Haven Meats in Hamilton County.

Additional information as to the movement of debris (firewood-limbs-brush etc.) will be forthcoming, as of now the quarantine of the movement of hardwood material is still in place as are the laws and rules that govern the movement of the debris.

*Division of Food Safety:* Food Safety Division reports that local health departments in the northern part of the state had power restored to their commercial areas by 10:00 p.m. Sunday evening (09/14/2008). Most of the departments are reporting isolated residential outages only at this time. The local health departments sent out an ODA/ODH press release to all retail food establishments about how to deal with perishable foods during a power outage. Only one department was aware of an establishment that was still without power (a drive thru in Allen County). The Central, SE and SW local health departments continue to be surveyed this morning.

*Division of Meat Inspection:* Most districts are regaining normal operations with power restoration, acquisition of generators, moving product to on-site refrigerated trucks or off-premise refrigerated storage sites. Status update on previously reported facilities:

As establishments resume operations Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Meat Inspection inspectors during their daily visits will verify product compliance with agency regulations and oversee the condemnation of unsound product. Records of the quantity of condemned product will be recorded as a part of normal agency record keeping and reported later.

USDA has acquired tomatoes and ODA is looking into how to distribute this product throughout Ohio.

### Ohio Department of Natural Resources

ODNR has expressed a concern regarding movement of tree debris from Emerald Ash Borer quarantined counties to non-quarantined counties.

ODNR /Ag and EMA will coordinate in the Joint Information Center (JIC) to incorporate messages regarding movement of debris in respect to the EAB quarantine.

## **ESF 12 – Energy**

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

**Statewide Power Outages Total:** 897,185

**American Electric Power of Ohio** - AEP brought crews from Kentucky and West Virginia to assist in restoration efforts. The company is experiencing the most difficulty in restoring power to Malvern, Ohio in the northwest part of Carroll County. AEP has 374,722 customers without power across its service territory.

**Dayton Power & Light** - DP&L has 124,260 customers remaining without power. The company has gathered crews from Indiana from Indiana.

**Duke Power** - Duke continues to have 255,040 customers without power. Crews are coming from the Carolinas to assist in restoration efforts.

**First Energy** - FirstEnergy is experiencing 130,586 outages in its service territory. Additional crews are coming from Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to assist in restoration efforts.

**Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives (OREC)** - OREC restored 12,577 customers. OREC does not believe that any of their service territories will require additional state assistance. The Cooperatives were provided additional restoration crews from Michigan and Illinois.

### **Petroleum**

Representatives from the Ohio Petroleum Council and the Ohio Petroleum Marketers Association both participated in the Basic Needs Workgroup meeting/conference call today at 2:00 p.m.

### **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)**

OHS has nothing significant to report.

### **COUNTY IMPACTS**

The following county reports are current as of 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

Brown County advised of their declaration in the 9/17 conference call with declared counties. No mission requests have been submitted from the county at this time.

Butler County reports impact from the high wind event has resulted in significant power outages in the county. The county has declared a local emergency and has requested assistance through the State EOC for assistance in hauling capability for ice.

Carroll County: The County has declared an emergency locally. The county EMA has assisted the State EOC in identifying the source of a vague request for assistance from the Village of Malvern.

Champaign County declared a local emergency because of the high wind event. At this time, there have been no requests for assistance through the State EOC.

Clark County has made several requests through the State EOC after declaring a local emergency shortly after the windstorm hit. Requests have focused on supplying of drinking water to residents without power.

Clermont County has made a local declaration of emergency but has requested no missions at this time.



Clinton County has made a local declaration of emergency due to the windstorm. No requests have been submitted at this time and local efforts to coordinate recovery continue.

Columbiana County has been coordinating response and recovery efforts while power is restored to the area. A county emergency declaration has been made.

Coshocton County has significant debris issues that have prompted them to declare a local emergency. At this time, the county has requested information on cell tower back up power issues but has not requested assistance.

Delaware County has had numerous requests for assistance in regards to emergency power through generators. Heavily hit by the wind event, the county continues to coordinate efforts to respond and recover.

Fairfield County has been working towards recovery while making sure the needs of the public are being met. A declaration was issued in response to the high wind event.

Franklin County was heavily impacted by the high wind event. While working response and recovery coordination the county has also been able to push damage assessment information to the local jurisdictions and roll up the responses.

Greene County has requested assistance through the State EOC primarily for back up generator support for water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities. As power is restored, the county has been able to cancel some requests for assistance.

Hamilton County has experienced significant impact from the high wind event. Requests have been made for assistance in feeding operations for special need populations.

Highland County has declared a local emergency and has been coordinating recovery efforts with no requests for state assistance.

Knox County was impacted by the high wind event and as a result declared a local emergency.

Licking County has requested assistance with supplying ice to residents without power. A local declaration is in place.

Madison County has declared locally but as of this update has made no requests for state assistance.

Montgomery County was impacted heavily by the wind event. A declaration of emergency was followed by several requests for assistance with generators, ice and other assistance.

Morrow County has declared a local emergency but has made no requests for assistance while coordinating response and recovery efforts.

Perry County has worked through the results of the wind event and coordinated back up power for a communications tower while coordinating generators for wastewater treatment facilities. A local declaration is in place.

Preble County has expressed a need for assistance with heavy debris operations and as a result has declared an emergency.

Seneca County has declared an emergency based on the amount of debris generated by the high wind event.

Stark County continues to coordinate support for the residents without power as utility restoration efforts continue to make gains within the county. A local declaration has been made and debris assistance is a possible need.

Tuscarawas County has declared a local emergency based on the effects of the high wind event. No requests for assistance have been made at the time of this report.

Warren County experienced significant impact from the wind event. Needs in debris assistance, fuel support and recovery efforts have been noted. Warren County is under a local emergency declaration.

#### **BRIEFING AND SITUATION REPORT DATA**

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 3 Briefing: The next CAS 3 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2008. The State EOC Assessment Room staff will continue to monitor the 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).