



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 19, 2008

This is the Situation Report for Friday, September 19, 2008. This information is current as of 4:30 p.m. today.

The next scheduled CAS Level 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 20 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.

September 18: The SEOC Operations Room continued operating at CAS Level 3 until 3:31 p.m., when de-escalation to CAS-2 occurred due to reduced demand for state assistance. Three additional counties issued declarations bringing the total to 29 counties declared. Power continued to be restored with approximately 588,786 customers reported as being without power.

September 19: The SEOC Operations Room continued operating at CAS Level 2 until 3:30 p.m., when de-escalation to CAS-1 occurred due to reduced demand for state assistance. Power continued to be restored with approximately 332,631 customers reported as being without power.

DECLARATIONS

County: (29) Brown, Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Preble, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Tuscarawas and Warren.

WEATHER

General Forecast

Today will be sunny day with highs ranging from 70 in the north to 80 in the south and light southerly winds. On Saturday, expect warmer temperatures with sunshine as southerly winds increase to six mph and shift to the east. Over the next couple of days, it will be sunny with mild temperatures.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT continues maintaining traffic detours and debris assistance missions as needed. We are currently showing two closures due to storm issues statewide: (SR 560 in Champaign and SR 59 in Summit).

- In Champaign County, State Route 560 is closed due to storm issues.
- In Summit County, State Route 59 is closed due to storm issues.

ODOT reports that 15 of the 1375 ODOT operated traffic signals are still dark.

ESF 2 – Communications

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

OEMA has nothing significant to report.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR has nothing significant to report.

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT is assisting in debris removal in Greene and Montgomery counties and the City of Worthington.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Public Water Supply:

With the continuing restoration of power in many areas, there have been a dozen public water supply facilities returning to normal operations.

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 1:00 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, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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.

Ohio EMA led a discussion of current and potential unmet needs for basic life-sustaining resources to include food, water, fuel and support for special needs populations in wind storm impacted jurisdictions in Ohio.

Petroleum: The issue mentioned yesterday concerning the BP pumps in Kentucky being operational but the loading rack in Cincinnati having no power was addressed by PUCO the OPMA, the OPC and Duke Energy and was successfully resolved. The loading rack is now operational, adding significant additional fuel to the Cincinnati area.

The availability of diesel fuel in southeastern states is extremely tight and various petroleum associations and the USEPA are discussing the possibility of obtaining waivers to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. Ohio could be included in this waiver if the need is there.

The 12 shut down refineries along the Gulf Coast and the return of residents to their homes in Texas and along the Gulf Coast could contribute to an increase in gasoline prices in Ohio over the next few weeks until supply stabilizes.

No major fuel-related problems are seen in Ohio at this time.

Water: Some county-level missions for water at mobile home parks continue but there are no state missions at this time. Twelve public water providers returned to normal operations last night. Most of these had generators to supply power or had boil orders.

Food: VOAD sent out an appeal publicized by local faith-based organizations for support of food pantries. The effort includes press releases, web postings on the Governor's list server and the VOAD list server. Monetary donations can be made through these sites or direct to local food pantries.

County EMAs were surveyed concerning their need for mobile canteens and at this time none are needed

Special Needs and Medical: The shelter for special needs populations remains open in Cincinnati. No new issues concerning special needs populations have been received from county EMAs. OCSC continues to support this shelter with Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

No future meetings are scheduled.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC has been focusing on debris, food and shelter information verification. OCSC has been coordinating with the JIC to send out communications to their network.

Ohio Citizen Corps

Volunteers for debris removal are being organized for this weekend in Franklin County.

Ohio Medical Reserve Corps

The Hamilton County Special Needs Shelter is still open today and will remain open 24 hours. The plan is to close Saturday at noon. Cincinnati / Tristate MRC are providing volunteers for eight hour shifts to assist those in need. Three people are needing refrigeration for insulin and other medicine.

Cincinnati / Tristate MRC volunteers are helping with phone calls at the Hamilton County EOC through the weekend. Volunteers may assist on checking on neighbors and making sure everyone is doing well.

MRC has provided assistance at shelters located in Franklin County.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Shelter Name (Id)	Status	Address	Agency Operating Shelter
Blue Ash Air National Guard Station 123 Acs (52592)	Open	10649 Mckinley Road CINCINNATI OH 45242	ARC
Crossroads Church Of God (6283)	Open	6213 MILLER LANE DAYTON OH 45414	ARC
Edgewood Community Center (70976)	Open	6852 Market Ave N CANTON OH 44721	ARC
First United Methodist Church (64644)	Open	202 West Fourth St. GREENVILLE OH 45331	ARC
Heath Church Of Christ (7503)	Open	1331 CHAPEL WAY HEATH OH 43056	ARC
OHIO EXPO CENTER-RHODES (12147)	Open	717 E 17TH AVE COLUMBUS OH 43211	ARC

All other shelters are either closed or on standby.

Ohio VOAD

Members continue to respond to local request as needed.

Ohio VOAD has contact information that was provided to Stark County Engineer and the Franklin County EMA regarding personnel to assist in debris removal.

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)

Of the 37 (37/50) mental health boards reporting on behavioral health needs, only two indicated an increase in calls for assistance. One from a mother concerned about her daughter who had lost power from Knox County, the other was in Licking County. Most others were to get information about food, water and power. Licking/Knox had a 30% increase of hotline calls for same period in last year.

Clermont County related they had over 900 calls to the county 911 emergency communication center but no increase for behavioral health related services.

Warren/Clinton Butler county case managers calling upon mental health clients in the community to assure they are okay. They have moved a couple to shelter in Clinton County.

Ohio Department of Insurance

Windstorm-related consumer calls continue to decrease. The majority of all calls on this event have related to debris removal concerns (many such as, neighbor's tree fell in my yard, who should take care of it).

Ohio Department of Aging (ODA)

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in Cincinnati reports one person still in a shelter and one staff person continuing to help answer hotline calls at the EMA. That AAA ordered meals from two providers, enabling the AAA to continue delivering meals to older persons with no other access to meals. The other AAAs still receiving requests have been able to respond to requests through referral to other agencies or their own programs.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

ODJFS continues to provide support and technical assistance to county Job and Family Services regarding the reissuing of food stamps. Clarification and guidance is being provided to the county offices regarding the documentation that can be used to verify power outages of more than 4 hours. This guidance should help alleviate some of the barriers individuals may be facing to apply for this assistance.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

DAS has nothing significant to report.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH has nothing significant to report.

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR has nothing significant to report.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

OEPA has nothing significant to report.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

According to a report received from USDA Farm Service Agency, thirty-two counties sustained crop damage from the windstorm. Corn has sustained losses or has been bent over, which will cause severe harvesting problems (losses up to 44%). There has been damage to the soybean crop (losses up to 40%). It has been reported that fruit has been knocked from trees.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Statewide Power Outages Total: 332,631

American Electric Power of Ohio - AEP has 125,753 customers without power across its service territory.

Dayton Power & Light - DP&L has 65,000 customers remaining without power.

Duke Power - Duke continues to have 114,000 customers without power.

First Energy - FirstEnergy is experiencing 26,643 outages in its service territory.

Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives (OREC) - OREC has 1,235 customers remaining without power.

Petroleum

PUCO continues to participate in conference calls with representatives from the Ohio Petroleum Council and the Ohio Petroleum Marketers Association and the EMA.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

The scheduled shutdown of I-77 in Summit Co. was delayed until 7 p.m. last evening (9/18/08). This shutdown was weather related and only delayed traffic northbound and southbound for approximately 15 minutes. The necessity of the shutdown was for AEP to string new electric lines across the Interstate for several neighborhoods. Akron P.D. provided personnel for traffic control during the operation and no assistance from OSHP was necessary.

Most of the central Ohio road closures are being reported in Licking Co. and are isolated to rural county and township roads.

In the southwest quadrant of the state, Hamilton Co. is reporting 8-10 roadways, which remain closed. These closures are not on any major thoroughfares and no incidents or issues were reported as a result.

At the present time no issues or outages have been reported at any OSP facilities.

Ohio Homeland Security (OHS)

OHS has nothing significant to report.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

The Governor has requested a disaster declaration from the President through FEMA. FEMA is currently assessing the request.

Assistance under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program, Category B. Emergency Protective Measures, is only available to governmental entities and certain private, non-profit organizations and is a cost-shared program of 75% federal and 25% non-federal funds. Eligible costs for activities taken during and after the incident that are necessary to eliminate or reduce an imminent threat to the public's health and safety and prevent damage to improved public and private property would be reimbursable. Emergency communications, access and public transportation may be eligible types of costs.

Examples of eligible emergency protective measures are:

- Warning devices such as barricades, signs and lights
- Search and rescue
- Provision of emergency shelters or care
- Provision of food\water\ice and other essential needs
- Emergency repairs
- Activation of Emergency Operation Centers

The federal declaration **would not** provide loans and grants to homeowners, renters, farmers and business owners for any disaster-related costs that may incur due to the power outage and clean up.

County EMA offices are providing additional assessment information to estimate statewide expenses associated with debris removal and wind damage to public infrastructure. This information will be used to determine whether a request to amend the pending emergency declaration is warranted.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

The Joint Information Center (JIC) has worked on rumor control and fielding constituent calls with the assistance of Department of Job and Family Services. The JIC has worked with the following non-English media for translation of news releases and safety tips for the Spanish and Somali Ohio populations: New American Initiative, MACC, Ohio Hispanic Coalition, Fronteras, and Somali Link. Media inquiries have reduced and the JIC will deactivate at 5:00pm today.

COUNTY IMPACTS

The following county reports are current as of 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 19, 2008.

Franklin County has ongoing missions for debris removal.

Greene County has ongoing missions for debris removal.

Montgomery County has ongoing missions for debris removal.

BRIEFING AND SITUATION REPORT DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, 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 by 2:00 p.m. daily.