



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: John R. Kasich, Governor

FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency

SUBJECT: Statewide Severe Weather – March 2, 2012

DATE: March 4, 2012

This is the second Situation Report for this incident. Information in this Situation Report is current as of 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, 2012.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012 to monitor the “Statewide Severe Weather – March 2, 2012” event. On Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. the SEOC moved to Crisis Action Level 1 (CAS-1).

CAS-1 briefings were held at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on March 4, 2012. The SEOC Assessment Room will close at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and will reopen at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, March 5.

The next CAS-1 briefing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 5.

FATALITIES

The storms resulted in three (3) fatalities in Clermont County: James Prater, 54 and Bill Adkins, 58, both of Bethel; and Carol Forste, 64, Village of Moscow Councilwoman.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Severe weather, including five tornados moved through Adams, Brown, Clermont, Pike and Scioto during the evening hours on March 2, 2012. National Weather Service preliminary estimates were that an eF3 tornado impacted Clermont County near Moscow, Ohio; an eF1 tornado impacted Adams County near Seaman, Ohio; an eF0 tornado impacted Adams County southwest of West Union, Ohio; an eF2 tornado impacted Adams County northeast of West Union, Ohio; and an eF0 tornado impacted Scioto County near Otway, Ohio.

The Village of Moscow has extensive damage, at least 50 of the approximately 90-95 homes in Moscow are damaged/destroyed. A number of gas leaks were reported Friday night into Saturday

and residents left the area; residents were allowed to return at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. A curfew exists tonight from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The Clermont County Building Department evaluated the habitability of structures in Moscow on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. The Clermont County EOC is activated and will close tonight at 6:00 p.m. and reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 5.

A Liaison from the Ohio National Guard is in the Clermont County EOC.

Sheltering

The peak overnight sheltering population for the event was 12, on the night of March 2. Currently, there is no population sheltered at the one shelter that is open at the New Richmond High School, and there was no overnight population on March 3.

DECLARATIONS

State: Governor Kasich issued a declaration for Clermont County on Saturday, March 3.

County: Clermont County

WEATHER

Temperatures across the state today will be about 10 degrees below average this afternoon, as highs only make into the 30s. Snow showers will be possible across the state today and tonight. Colder-than-normal temperatures will persist into Monday, but warmer temperatures will return on Tuesday, with highs mainly in the 50s.

FIELD OPERATIONS

An Ohio EMA Field Liaison remains in Clermont County to assist with EOC operations.

COUNTY BY COUNTY SUMMARY REPORT

Clermont County

- **Fatalities:** 3 confirmed fatalities.
- **Areas Impacted:** Tate Township, Bethel, Felicity, and Moscow/Washington Township. National Weather Service preliminary assessment estimates the Moscow tornado was EF3.
- **Declaration:** County State of Emergency. The Governor has issued a verbal declaration for Clermont County.
- **County EOC:** Closing at 6:00 p.m., will re-open at 8:00 a.m. March 4.
- **Law Enforcement:** A security perimeter is in place. Four OSHP Officers are assigned in Moscow to assist with security operations and one Officer is assigned to the County EOC.

- **Damage Assessments:** The County Building Dept. has made determinations of habitable structures in Moscow, and the ARC is also conducting assessments. At least 50 of the approximately 90-95 homes in Moscow are damaged/destroyed. ARC initial damage assessment: 21 - Single Family Homes Destroyed, 3 - Mobile Homes Destroyed, 25 - Single Family Homes Major damage.
- **Shelter:** The New Richmond High School shelter remains open, but currently does not have a population. The Shelter did not have any overnight population on March 3.
- **Mass Care:** Home Depot is supplying tarps and other supplies at the Incident Command Post in Moscow. A Family Assistance Center was requested by ARC in the Moscow area. Two ARC Emergency Response Vehicles are deployed to the area. Meals are being provided to residents and to the Incident Command Post in Moscow/Washington Township. A Donations Management Center and a Volunteer Reception Center has been set up.
- **Power:** As of March 4 at 3:00 p.m. approximately 200 outages in Clermont County. Duke has estimated that it will restore the outages (to houses and buildings that are restorable) by midnight March 4.
- **Facilities:** The Moscow Sewage Treatment Plant was without power and a backup generator was installed on March 3. The Tate-Monroe Water Plant is running on backup generators and is operational. There are no issues with drinking water.
- **Debris:** Clermont County has developed a Debris Management Plan and the State has organized a Debris Working Group to coordinate assistance. ODOT and OEPA representatives met with the County today to coordinate debris management.
- **Beetle Quarantine:** USDA inspectors are on-site to instruct homeowners on proper disposal of green waste due to Asian Longhorn Beetle. Received green waste at USDA holding yard for disposal.
- **Roads:** Crews are controlling access to US 52 to assist law enforcement with controlling access to the area.
- **Assistance:** A Liaison from the Ohio National Guard is still deployed to the County EOC. Three missions have been accepted by state agencies to assist with debris and contractor fraud issues.
- **Communications:** There are no current radio communication challenges. The MARCS tower in Moscow was restored to the electrical grid. No inter-operability requests have been received. The Verizon tower in southern Clermont County is now operational (pre-event issue).

Adams County

- **Areas Impacted:** Preliminary estimates from the NWS include an eF1 tornado near Seaman; an eF0 tornado southwest of West Union; and an eF2 tornado northeast of West Union.

- **Damage Assessments:** ARC damage assessment is: 5 - Single family homes with Major Damage, 1 - Mobile Home Destroyed.
- **Communications:** MARCS towers in Blue Creek and West Union have been restored to the electrical grid. No inter-operability requests have been received.

Scioto County

- **Area Impacted:** Village of Otway.
- **Damage Assessments:** Local damage assessments were conducted on March 3. NWS estimates the tornado (originating from Adams County) went through Scioto County as an eF0. Two residential structures have structural damages. Two government buildings also have insured damages; including an Otway Fire Department vehicle building that was destroyed. One Fire Engine was destroyed; local fire officials have a temporary vehicle on loan and are working on a permanent replacement.

Pike County

- **Area Impacted:** Southwest of Jasper.
- **Damages:** Local damage assessments took place on March 3. The primary issue in the county is debris management, with one home/trailer destroyed in the Longfork area (Loys Run) due to a tree falling on it.

Brown County

- **Area Impacted:** Vicinity of Hamersville.
- **Power:** Approximately 100 power outages.

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

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

All roadways in the tornado impact area have had debris cleared and are open. There are two flood related closures, one on SR 239 in Scioto County and the other on SR 356 in Athens County.

ODOT crews are standing by to respond to possible snow/ice missions if needed.

ODOT is supporting the debris management group and attended a planning meeting this morning. ODOT has assigned a debris assessment engineer from the District 8 headquarters to coordinate debris management efforts with the local EMA in Clermont County. A meeting was held today

with EPA and other agencies to establish a local debris management plan in anticipation of removal missions later this week.

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

OSHP is supporting traffic control and access to US 52 in the Moscow, Ohio area.

ESF 2 – Communications

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

All MARCS towers are operational and back on commercial power. The OEMA Communications Branch plans to visit several Southwest Ohio towers on Monday which may have sustained storm damage.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT has completed all on-highway debris clearing missions, and crews remain on stand-by for debris missions and will respond as necessary.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

A meeting of the Debris Management Team was held on Sunday morning to discuss the current debris management mission in the Village of Moscow in Clermont County. ODOT and OEPA are sending representatives to Moscow to meet with the local debris manager. The primary staging area for debris is the Community Center, located at 30 Wells Street in Moscow. ODOT and OEPA will provide guidance and training to local representatives in estimating debris quantity and on the separation of materials to ensure an organized staging area for proper handling of debris material and to ensure that it is taken to the proper disposal facility.

ODNR is coordinating with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the handling of green material in the beetle quarantined area within Clermont County. Volunteer efforts are being coordinated locally to assist with debris staging.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

OEPA is providing a representative to assist Clermont County in identifying and approving a debris staging area.

ESF 4 – Fire

State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM)

Nothing significant to report.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

American Red Cross

The New Richmond High School shelter in New Richmond, Ohio remains open. There is currently no population at this shelter and the shelter did not have any overnight population on March 3. An American Red Cross damage assessment has been completed for Clermont and Adams County. The damage totals are as follows:

Adams County – five single-family homes with major damage, and one mobile home was destroyed.

Clermont County – 21 single-family homes were destroyed, three mobile homes were destroyed, and 25 single-family homes had major damage.

VOAD

Ohio VOAD remains available to provide any assistance that may be requested, particularly with debris removal, spiritual care and donations management.

Volunteers – Clermont County has established a Volunteer Reception Center. Volunteers are being requested to call 513-641-6082 to inquire about volunteering in the impacted area. The Volunteer Reception Center that was established in response to the incident has registered approximately 140 volunteers to assist as requests are received. Requests for assistance remain low at this time.

Donations – A Donations Center has been established at the Clermont County Fairgrounds located at 1000 Locust St., Owensville, Ohio 45160. Hours of operations for today are 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Future operational hours have not been confirmed at this time.

ESF 7 – Resource and Logistics Support

Public-Private Partnerships

Home Depot is distributing donated tarps via the Moscow, Ohio local Incident Command Post. ESF-7 staff stands ready to support the incident via procurement.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Nothing significant to report.

ESF 9 – Search & Rescue

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

State assistance for Search and Rescue Operations was not requested. Local search and rescue assessment of the area in Moscow was concluded without incident.

ESF-10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

No incident-related hazmat issues have been reported to this point; however, OEPA will have an On-Scene Coordinator in the impacted area on March 5 to do a sweep for signs of hazardous materials releases and to touch base with County EOC.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has quarantined part of Clermont County for both the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long Horn Beetle. This will require additional coordination for appropriate disposition of debris. The area quarantined for the Asian Longhorn Beetle already had tree removal operations in place before the storm. There were already resources in the area to conduct the special cutting and chipping of woody debris in order to take the debris offsite.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Duke continues to make progress in restoring remaining customers' power. Some customers in the impacted area may experience temporary outages during the restoration of power lines. As of 3:00 p.m. on March 5, Duke reported 200 outages in Clermont County, 100 in Brown County and 100 in Hamilton County.

ESF 14 – Recovery

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

ESF 14 is partially implementing the State Disaster Housing Strategy and utilizing housing locator resource websites in an effort to check for available temporary housing. ESF 14 also continues to monitor local damage assessment.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio EMA Public Affairs created a fact sheet for distribution to impacted residents with tips on how to stay safe during recovery operations. This fact sheet has been sent to the communications contact in Clermont County. The Ohio Department of Health created an article on their website's main page (www.odh.ohio.gov) that links to cleanup safety information and Ohio EMA's latest news release, as well as information on severe weather awareness.

Ohio EMA Public Affairs is responding to media inquiries from local and national news outlets to include: ABC News, CBS Weekend News, CNN, The Weather Channel, Reuters, Fox News, and NBC News.

Two press releases have been distributed to media outlets today:

- “State EOC Activates in response to severe weather in SW Ohio”
- ODA release: “Clermont County residents with storm damage to trees encouraged to check for signs of Asian Long-horned Beetle”

Information was posted to Facebook regarding cleanup safety and mental health following a disaster. Two tweets were posted on Twitter; one on safety procedures during disaster cleanup and a re-tweet of previous updates.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

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

The next CAS-1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Monday, March 5.