



**STATE OF OHIO**  
**Emergency Operations Center**  
**SITUATION REPORT**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Ted Strickland, Governor  
**FROM:** Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
**SUBJECT:** March 2008 Heavy Rains  
**DATE:** March 20, 2008

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This is the second SitRep for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2008.

**GENERAL SITUATION**

On March 18-19, heavy rains statewide produced moderate flooding, with impacts in the Miami, Scioto, and Muskingum river basins. Four (4) county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) were activated to support local response operations. These same four counties reported declaring county-level emergencies on March 19, 2008 due to flooding. Three of the four counties commenced damage assessments today.

Two weather-related fatalities have been confirmed by the Gallia and Hamilton County Coroners. The third unconfirmed weather-related death was in Clinton County and confirmation is pending.

In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 briefings have been conducted in the SEOC Assessment Room at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. since activation. The next scheduled CAS Level 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Rivers above flood stage are cresting or are expected to crest on Friday, with the exception of the Scioto at Prospect and Picketon which is forecast to crest into Saturday. Points on the Ohio River below Marietta are expected to crest Saturday and Sunday with minor flooding forecast.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will continue to monitor the situation for any changes in cooperation with its federal, state, and local partners.

**DECLARATIONS**

County: Butler, Hamilton, Tuscarawas, and Warren.

## **WEATHER**

### Weather Summary

Rainfall totals over the past 72 hours were between 4-6 inches in far southwest Ohio, and 1-3 inches in other areas of the state. Numerous Flood Warnings and Flood Statements continue across the state, with a Winter Storm Watch across the far northwest.

The storm system that brought the excessive rain and even some snow has departed. The next system into the state Friday afternoon through Saturday will bring rain/snow north and rain south across the state. Liquid amounts will range from 1/2"-3/4" across northwest and western Ohio, to near 0.50" or less elsewhere in the state. Snow amounts in far northwest Ohio may range from 3"-5", 2"-4" north of a line from Sidney to Columbus for Friday and Friday night, with mainly rain to the south in the state. Current precipitation forecasts are not expected to present significant aggravation to river flooding.

### General Forecast

Today will be brisk and dry with partly to mostly cloudy skies. Northeast Ohio may see a few flurries today. Tonight expect partly cloudy skies and on Friday clouds will increase and light rain will develop in central and southern Ohio with light snow developing in the north. A winter storm watch has been posted for Friday for parts of northern Ohio. The weekend will be cold and dry.

### Warnings and Watches

#### ***Flood Warnings***

Allen, Athens, Butler, Clermont, Defiance, Franklin, Fulton, Geauga, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Hocking, Holmes, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Mahoning, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Putnam, Ross, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Williams, and Wood counties.

#### ***Winter Storm Watch***

Defiance, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties.

## **STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

#### Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation is currently reporting 74 closures (down from 85 at 9:00 a.m.) and 21 restrictions (down from 34 at 9:00 a.m.) of primary state and US highways throughout central and southeastern Ohio. The only Interstate closure at this time is I-70 eastbound in Licking County near Buckeye Lake (MP 127). The I-70 eastbound ramp to SR 79 South also remains closed in this area.

State Route (SR) 7 was closed overnight due to another slip between Newport and New Matamoras in Washington County. A single lane zone remains for safety reasons as engineers

determine the extent of damage and likelihood of additional slippage.

The US 52 closure reported yesterday in Brown County was removed overnight by ODOT crews and traffic has been restored.

Icing conditions became a problem in central and northern Ohio early today. There were 232 plow/salt crews working the impacted areas. There was a report of an injury crash involving an elementary school bus on SR 18 in Seneca County. For details on roadway closures see [www.buckeyetraffic.org](http://www.buckeyetraffic.org).

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

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

ODNR reported during yesterday's briefing that a Class III Dam in Berkshire Township (Delaware County) breached and drainage was following a culvert along S. Galena Rd. and flowing into the Little Walnut Creek. No impact to Hoover Reservoir is anticipated.

#### Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

There are no reports of any significant or long-term impact to any regulated facilities due to flooding. Ohio EPA will advise Ohio EMA upon receipt of any such reports and respond as needed. EPA staff is available for technical assistance upon request for debris management and/or disposal, and any other environmental issues.

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

#### Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

OCSC continues to monitor sheltering and mass care operations and has staff ready to assist if the situation dictates.

In Tuscarawas County, Citizen Corps and RSVP volunteers are being coordinated to help with EOC operations.

#### American Red Cross (ARC)

Shelters with sponsors:

Butler County – St. Clair Township FD (ARC) and Princeton Pike Church of Christ 6101 Princeton-Glendale Road. Both of these are now closed.

Warren County – 505 Mason Morrow Millgrove Rd, Morrow OH, 1st Baptist (ARC)

Ross County – 161 S. Watt St., Chillicothe, and Church of Christ, Yellowbud (ARC)

Hamilton County – Hoover Elementary in Whitewater Township, and Parkside Church of Christ in Anderson Township. Both of these will close tonight if there is no population.

Fairfield County – 2151 W Fair, Lancaster Camp Ground (ARC). This shelter is now closed.

The Cincinnati Chapter is determining a location from which they will disburse clean up kits to the counties in southwest Ohio.

Ohio VOAD

Ohio VOAD is available for assistance as requested by calling the 24/7 line at 740-509-1132.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Nothing significant to report at this time.

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

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

ODH has nothing significant to report at this time.

**ESF 11 – Agriculture**

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

ODA internal agency divisions have not received any reports concerning the flooding. As of 3:00 p.m. today, Farm Service Agency (FSA) has not received any flash reports, and OSU County Extension offices have no reports for the current flooding situations.

**ESF 12 – Energy**

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

No flood-related outages or disruptions in utility service reported at this time.

**ESF 13 – Law Enforcement**

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

The Gallipolis Post received a call at 11:57 p.m. on March 19<sup>th</sup> that a vehicle was stranded on SR 235 in Gallia County near the Village of Vinton. The driver of the vehicle, a 53-year-old male Vinton resident, was able to extricate himself from the vehicle but was caught up in the undercurrent and drowned. On March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:10 a.m. the body was discovered by local fire rescue personnel. The county Coroner confirmed the death was related to the flooding. Next of kin has been notified.

**ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation**

Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB)

Ohio EMA recovery staff anticipates collecting and analyzing damage assessment information sent in from the four declared counties (Butler, Hamilton, Tuscarawas, and Warren) and to provide technical assistance as necessary.

Mitigation staff are analyzing past mitigation projects to determine correlating reduction or elimination of flood impacts.

## **ESF 15 -- Emergency Public Information and External Affairs**

### Ohio Department of Public Safety

Public Information personnel have been fielding increased media inquiries today, especially relating to weather related fatalities. A press release from the Emergency Operations Center focused on the EOC's role in monitoring the situation in the state as well as responding to county needs.

### **COUNTY IMPACTS**

At the time of the report, the following counties have provided updates indicating no significant issues: Athens, Auglaize, Brown, Champaign, Defiance, Delaware, Hancock, Harrison, Holmes, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Miami, Morrow, Putnam, Seneca, Stark and Wayne.

Phone contact was made with Hancock, Putnam and Seneca counties this morning to get a feel for the projected high water in their counties. Hancock County EMA had contacted the City of Findlay and both entities felt confident that they were in good shape. Putnam and Seneca County EMAs were both confident that the projected crests would be well within their abilities to handle.

As of the 2:00 p.m. update, the feedback received indicates that the situation is stabilizing over much of the state with no major issues.

#### Tuscarawas

EOC will remain open through the night tonight. No shelters open at this time, but the Red Cross is in the EOC in case shelters are needed.

#### Warren County

EOC is open. A shelter was open at the First Baptist Church in Morrow. The population is unknown at this time. The county began damage assessments at 10:00 a.m. today. Ohio EMA Field Liaison Keven Clouse is providing assistance. The county has requested 50 clean up kits from the American Red Cross and this request is being filled.

#### Hamilton County

County EMA will be conducting Damage Assessments today. The County Coroner confirmed that the reported fatality in Whitewater Township was storm related. The County is addressing landslide issues as they continue to happen. Two shelters are still open; one in Anderson Twp. and one in Whitewater Twp. They will be closed if there is no population tonight.

#### Butler County

County is conducting damage assessments today. Two shelters were open at the St. Clair Twp Fire Dept. and Princeton Pike Church of Christ in Liberty Twp. No population reported at the shelters overnight and both shelters are now closed.

#### Fairfield

A shelter was open at Lancaster Fairground, 2151 W. Fair St. overnight with a population of three (3). The shelter closed today.

Ross

Two shelters open: 161 S. Watt Street in Chillicothe and the Yellowbud Church of Christ in Yellowbud. No known population at this time.

Clinton County

Situation is stabilizing and there are no shelters open. The county EMA is working with the Coroner's office to get confirmation of a weather-related fatality.

Clermont

No shelters are open, and no needs reported at this time.

Pike County

EOC is open during normal business hours. No shelters are open. Multiple road closures, but no needs at this time.

Greene County

EOC is open with limited staffing during normal business hours. Water did not impact the electric facility, and it is no longer in danger of being impacted by flooding. No shelters are open.

Morgan County

The County EMA working with Commissioners to determine if a county emergency declaration is needed. The current determination is that the county will likely not declare.

Gallia County

There was a report of a fatality in the Village of Vinton due to high water which was confirmed by the county Coroner today.

**BRIEFING/SITREP DATA**

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 21, 2008. The state EOC Assessment Room will remain open through the night tonight and staff will continue to monitor the severe weather situation in Ohio until conditions improve.

All agencies should email their briefing reports and updates to: [eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us).