



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 25, 2008

This is the fifth Situation Report for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

March 18-19: Heavy rains statewide produced moderate flooding, with impacts in the Miami, Scioto, and Muskingum River basins.

March 19: In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 7:00 a.m. Four county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) were activated to support local response operations. These same four counties reported declaring county-level emergencies due to flooding.

March 20: 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 its activation. Three of the four counties commenced damage assessments. Two weather-related fatalities were confirmed by the Gallia and Hamilton County Coroners. The third weather-related death was in Clinton County and confirmation of the cause of death is not expected for another week.

March 21: Private and Public Sector damage assessments continued as flood waters receded. One County EOC remained open for 24-hour operations.

March 22-23: The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was staffed on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. and closed at 2:00 p.m. The Assessment Room was staffed in support of the Tuscarawas County EOC, which also closed at 2:00 p.m.

March 24: The Governor, the Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio EMA Field Operations Branch Chief and the District Commander of the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attended a public meeting at the Zoar United Church of Christ in the Village of Zoar on Easter Sunday. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the condition of the levee. As of 4:00 p.m. on March 24th, only two flood gauges in Ohio, Killbuck Creek near Killbuck, and the Muskingum River at Coshocton, were at the moderate flood level. Both private sector and public damage assessments continued and all shelters are closed. The Tuscarawas County EMA reopened 24-hour operations until levee repairs are finalized.

CURRENT SITUATION

There was a break in the weather today, allowing damage assessments to be conducted in some areas and some roadways to be reopened. The Corp of Engineers continue to work to repair the Zoar Levee and work is expected to be completed by Wednesday morning, March 26th.

The SEOC Assessment Room will remain open during normal business hours. The Ohio EMA Duty Officer will be available by calling 614-889-7150.

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

DECLARATIONS

County: Belmont, Butler, Carroll, Hamilton, Morgan, Tuscarawas, and Warren.

Local: City of Bellevue in Huron County.

WEATHER

Weather Summary

There is a chance of rain and snow showers in northern Ohio today, with precipitation changing to all rain by the afternoon. A few showers will also be possible in central and southern Ohio during the afternoon. According to the National Weather Service, total precipitation will not exceed ¼ inch anywhere in the state today. Windy conditions expected by late in the day across most of the state. The chance of precipitation will end Tuesday night across northern Ohio, but there will be a continuing chance of showers in southern Ohio through Wednesday. Another storm system will move into the Ohio Valley on Thursday, continuing the threat of precipitation into the start of the weekend.

Many flood warnings in western and southern Ohio expired through the weekend and today. The Muskingum Basin rivers and streams will steadily fall over the next 48 hours, although they can be expected to fall more slowly due to upstream reservoir releases. Killbuck Creek near Killbuck should fall below the flood stage by midday tomorrow.

Warnings and Watches

Flood Warnings – The following counties are under a flood warning: Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, and Wayne.

Wind Advisories – The following counties are under a wind advisory: Allen, Defiance, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Roadways continue to open as anticipated, and are currently down to 21 closures and 4 roadway restrictions statewide.

ODOT has determined S.R. 7 in Washington County, between Newport and New Matamoras, to be unsafe and closed the roadway pending additional subsurface investigations. ODOT estimates that the road may reopen on March 31st.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB)

DRB Public Assistance staff will conduct a conference call on March 27th at 10 a.m. to discuss the State Disaster Relief Program. County Directors in Belmont, Butler, Carroll, Hamilton, Huron - City of Bellevue, Morgan, Tuscarawas and Warren will all be called and advised no later than noon on March 26th.

County Directors were provided an email with a description of the State Disaster Relief Program and a list of potentially-eligible private non-profit organizations. Please contact Greg Keller at 614-799-3665 if there are any questions.

COUNTY IMPACTS

Ohio EMA Field Liaisons were in Tuscarawas and Butler Counties today supporting county EMAs.

Carroll County

Carroll County continues to monitor high water conditions and they will address issues as they are reported. Damage to the roads that are being used as alternate routes due to closure of SR 39 and SR 542 remain a concern. The county continues to work closely to assist people who are isolated due to high water. There are no requests for State assistance at this time.

Hamilton County

Damage assessments have been completed.

Morgan County

The County EMA is working with the county highway department and township officials to obtain infrastructure damage assessment information.

Tuscarawas County

The County EOC is maintaining 24-hour operations. Approximately 50 people around the Summerdale area are without power and are isolated in their homes by high water. County officials offered to remove these people by boat and have a shelter ready to open if needed, but all isolated people have advised the county that they didn't need to be evacuated and would wait for power to be restored. The County is maintaining contact with AEP and the utility has advised that it shouldn't be too long before power is restored. The Army Corps of Engineers is working closely with county officials to determine the amount of water that can be released from Dover Dam without impacting residents and utilities. There are no requests for State assistance at this time.

The Corp of Engineers reported today that their gravel patch on the Zoar Levee is being increased from 3 feet to 5 feet. At the current time, their repairs are estimated to be 60% complete. They expect their repair work to be completed by Wednesday morning, March 26th.

Warren County

All roads are open at this time and there is no reportable damage to infrastructure. The County EMA is assessing a few isolated pockets of residential damage that were previously inaccessible or unreported. Additional damages have been found and updated information will be submitted to the state when it is compiled.

Huron County

Huron County was reported as having declared yesterday, however, no county declaration was made or is anticipated. The City of Bellevue contracted for pumping supplies and has begun pumping water out of their flooded area. Damage assessment will be conducted when water has been drained from the area.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2008. It is anticipated that the event will be transitioned from response to recovery following the March 26, 2008 CAS-1 Briefing.

All agencies need to email their briefing reports and updates to eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us before 2:00 p.m.