



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 26, 2008

This is the sixth and final Situation Report for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. There are no additional CAS-1 Briefings scheduled for this event. Information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 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.

March 25: There was a break in the weather, allowing damage assessments to be conducted in some areas and some roadways to be reopened. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued to work to repair the Zoar Levee in Tuscarawas County.

CURRENT SITUATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed work on the most essential points of the Zoar levee and has increased length and depth of the filter blanket project from original specifications. Work on the expanded project has an estimated completion date of March 29th. The Tuscarawas County EOC will suspend 24-hour operation at 5:00 p.m. today. Dover impact elevations are available at <http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/dotns.htm>, and can provide useful information on potential road closures and openings when combined with NWS pool level forecasts.

Huron County will continue preliminary private sector damage assessments tomorrow. Ohio EMA Field Liaison, Andrew Elder, is on site assisting the County EMA and Disaster Recovery Branch personnel are available to provide technical assistance.

The Ohio EMA Duty Officer will be available by calling 614-889-7150.

DECLARATIONS

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

Local: City of Bellevue in Huron County.

WEATHER

Weather Summary

A cold front will remain stationary near the Ohio River today. Waves of low pressure traveling along the front will result in rain showers beginning tonight and continuing into Friday. From time to time these showers could be heavy and some thunderstorm activity may be possible. This precipitation will delay the drop in river levels, and in some cases, especially in the Muskingum River basin, rivers will return to minor flood stage. The Tiffin River at Stryker in the northeast is also predicted to go to minor stage. High pressure should dominate from Friday evening into Sunday. Next week (late Sunday into Tuesday), a new system is expected to bring large amounts of rain to mid-lower Ohio Valley.

Warnings and Watches

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

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council

Ohio Citizen Corps: Northwest Ohio Lead Volunteer Center (United Way of Toledo) is checking on volunteer needs in the Erie-Huron area.

American Radio Relay League: Frank Piper, Ohio Chapter has offered to alert Ham Radio operators, particularly in the Erie-Huron area, if needed. Frank can be reached at 614 589-4641.

Ohio VOAD

Mary Woodward, President, reports she has had many offers of volunteers and materials for cleanup. The phone number to request assistance is 740-732-6700. She has a bank of volunteers staffing the line.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB)

State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP): Information pertaining to a SDRP conference call briefing at 10:00 a.m. on March 27th has been provided to the County EMA Directors in Belmont, Butler, Carroll, Hamilton, Huron (for City of Bellevue), Morgan, Tuscarawas and Warren.

Individual Assistance: These same County EMA Directors were provided the Ohio VOAD contact number to give to private citizens that may be calling their offices seeking disaster assistance (740-732-6700). Ohio VOAD will be establishing case files and matching requests from private citizens to available resources.

No new damage assessment information has been received.