



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
SITUATION REPORT

Nancy J. Dragani, Executive Director
Emergency Management Agency

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Strickland, Governor
FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency
SUBJECT: Severe Weather and Tornadoes – September 2010
DATE: September 17, 2010

Information in this Situation Report is current as of 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 2010.

CAS-1 briefings were held in the State Emergency Operations Center Assessment Room at 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

During the early evening of September 16, 2010, a line of severe weather moved across the state. Multiple counties were affected by high winds and possible tornadoes primarily in central, southeast and northeast Ohio. The National Weather Service is assessing damage to determine if it was caused by a tornado in any of the affected counties. As of 8:00 a.m. there were more than 40,000 homes without power across the state. By 1:30 p.m. 18,405 customers across the state were still without power due to the storms.

DECLARATIONS

County – Athens, Perry, Wayne
Local – Harrison and Bearfield Townships (Perry County)

WEATHER

Weather Forecast

Clouds will break up today and temperatures will only be in the 60s to the north and 70s to the south. Tonight's weather will be clear and cool, with lows around 50. On Saturday expect sunny skies and warmer weather with highs from the 70s along Lake Erie to the mid 80s near the Ohio River. Showers are expected Saturday overnight and into Sunday as another cold front moves

through the state. There are no NWS warnings, watches or advisories in effect for Ohio at this time.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

During last evening, Athens County had two (2) road closures, SR 33 and SR 682; Meigs County had three (3) road closures, SR 7, SR 124, and SR 687. ODOT has seven crews out in Athens County and seven crews out in Meigs County. Currently there are no state routes closed. There is a lot of debris and clean up along the roads which will continue for several days. There have been several ODOT employees at the local County EOCs and they will continue to respond if required.

ODOT contacted 11 counties that were impacted by the storm. No reported other modes of travel have been impacted (railroad, airports, water ports along Ohio River).

District 10 - Crews remain out performing clean-up along various state routes in Athens and Meigs Counties. Operations will continue until dusk.

District 11 (Tuscarawas County) - There are eight (8) employees working on storm clean-up which is expected to be completed today. Two generators have been set up for traffic lights at I-77 and SR 39.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR presently is experiencing power outages at the Wildlife District Office in Athens and Alum Creek State Park. ODNR is presently assessing areas for damage.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

American Red Cross (ARC)

The Perry County shelter is closed. The Athens County shelter may close today, depending on need. Preliminary Damage Assessment: Perry County TBD; Athens, ARC teams from Columbus and Fairfield Counties arrived earlier today. They will move to other counties when and if requested.

Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (Ohio VOAD)

Ohio VOAD is placing volunteers on stand-by until needs are identified. Any in-kind donations or monetary donations may be forwarded to Ohio VOAD, 810 Main St. Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

Two warehouses (one in McArthur and one in Caldwell) are available for storage if needed.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

ODJFS is in communication with affected counties to potentially issue Food Assistance (Stamps) replacement.

ESF – 8 Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Ohio Department of Mental Health's Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare hospital in Athens County reported that they have not had any issues at the campus as a result of yesterday's severe weather and tornado activity. All patients were moved to pre-designated locations at the hospital. All were accounted for and no problems reported. The Athens Hocking Vinton County Behavioral Health Board reported no issues for the mental health service system and is monitoring the community with their service providers to address any issues that emerge.

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue

The Region 4 Collapse Search and Rescue Team began assembling in "stand by" mode at approximately 8:00 p.m., September 16. All participating agencies (11 departments) met their obligations and a full team was wheels rolling from Central Ohio (Region 4) to Athens (Region 7) at approximately 9:15p.m. A lead element (Team Leader and three from Violet Twp) responded direct and were on scene at approximately 9:45p.m.

The Team rolled into a pre-set staging area with an assignment and immediately conducted search operations of damaged mobile homes until approximately 2:30 a.m. After completing all necessary tasks, the team demobilized and arrived back in Columbus at approximately 4:30 a.m.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA)

Ohio EPA received one report of a significant environmental release related to weather on the Emergency Spill Hotline, thus far. A pole mounted transformer was knocked down by wind (possibly tornado) in Tuscarawas County, releasing approximately 50-80 gallons of transformer oil; the spill is contained and cleanup in process. Ohio EPA may receive more reports of releases like this as damaged areas are more fully assessed.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

AEP reported as of 1:30 p.m. Friday that 18,405 customers across the state were still without power due to the storms. Latest estimated time for 90% restoration for AEP customers is Monday, September 20 at noon though the majority should be restored before then.

ESF 13 - Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

The Highway Patrol has completed two mission requests. In Perry County the request was made for OSHP aviation to conduct aerial surveillance of the damaged area. The Cessna Caravan has reported to the Perry County airport to meet up with local law enforcement to assist in this mission.

The OSHP Cessna Caravan is also going to be utilized in Athens and Wayne counties to provide video footage of the storm damaged areas. In Athens County, OSHP units are assisting with traffic control at the intersection of US 33 and CR 7. SR 682 was opened at approximately 0800 hrs this date. Johnson Road and Matheny road are the only roads that remain closed.

In Meigs County, State Route 124, MP 62-65 is closed at this time. Traffic is being re-routed down CR 50, Eden Road. Emergency crews and ODOT are on the scene as well as AEP working to restore power to the area. OSHP has responded to a request by Meigs County Commissioner, Mike Bartrum, to help with traffic and crowd control in the Reedsville area where the damage is extensive.

In Wayne County, OSU Police Dept received heavy damage from the storms. The Wooster Post will supply two units per shift for perimeter security through Sunday evening.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Ohio EMA advised FEMA Region V Disaster Assistance Division and Small Business Administration (SBA) in Atlanta of multiple counties being impacted by severe storms; distributed via email (all 88 counties) the Debris Fact Sheet for Local Officials and the Private Property Inspections List and provided technical assistance on damage assessment to county EMA offices (Athens, Perry) and EMA field liaisons who have been deployed.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Tamara McBride, Ohio EMA Public Affairs, traveled to Athens County with Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Thomas Stickrath and Assistant Director George Meier to visit damaged sites from yesterday's reported tornadoes. Tamara conducted numerous media interviews since last night concerning tornado and storm damage in Perry, Athens, and Wayne counties. ODPS is reviewing EMA's news release on the tornadoes and tornado safety tips.

County Impacts

Athens County

County declaration of emergency in effect. Significant damages to homes and trailers have been reported in Athens and The Plains. Eleven injuries were reported. One shelter was open overnight with one occupant. Thirty head of cattle were reported missing.

Delaware County

A possible EF0 tornado caused damage in Genoa Township. Numerous trees were down in the area and a tree fell into a home in Orange Twp. Severe thunderstorms caused damage in Lewis Center as well. The roof of the Olentangy High School auditorium was damaged. No injuries were reported and classes were not canceled.

Fairfield County

One home reported significant damage and several others with cosmetic damage on the western border of the county (Tarlton Rd. area).

Holmes County

NWS has confirmed an EF1 tornado. Seven barns and outbuildings were reported damaged in Clark Twp.

Mahoning County

Springfield Township experienced high wind damage. Tree limbs were downed and a porch was torn from the front of a house. Damage pattern was in a swath approximately 100 feet by 660 feet.

Meigs County

Storm damage in Reedsville. OSHP is assisting with traffic flow.

Perry County

County declaration of emergency in effect. Possible tornado caused significant damage in Bearfield and Harrison Townships. Ten people were sheltered overnight in an ARC managed shelter.

Pickaway County

Minimal damage on Tarlton Rd. on the county border. County building inspectors were on site today to assist with assessments.

Tuscarawas County

Damages to 10-15 businesses reported due to possible tornado touchdown. A respite center for first responders was opened by the local ARC chapter but no occupants reported.

Wayne County

County declaration of emergency in effect. High wind damage to buildings and residences on the Ohio State University (OSU) Wooster Campus was reported. Wayne County Justice Center began receiving calls that indicated a probable tornado in the area of the intersection of SR 3 and SR 95. The path of damage continued east across the south side of Wooster to at least the area of Kohler Rd. One minor injury was reported. The OSU Wooster Campus and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center were closed today.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

Barring a change in the current situation, the SEOC assessment room will close at 7:00 p.m. today. It will be open tomorrow, Saturday, September 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The assessment room will be closed Sunday and re-open Monday, September 20 at 7:00 a.m.

The next scheduled CAS-1 briefing is Monday, September 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.