



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
SITUATION REPORT

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John R. Kasich, Governor
FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency
SUBJECT: Snow and Ice Storm – February 2011
DATE: February 2, 2011

Information in this Situation Report is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

In response to the “Snow and Ice Storm – February 2011” event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at Crisis Action Level 1 (CAS-1) on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. There have been no local requests for state-level assistance.

CAS-1 briefings were held at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. today.

This is the first Situation Report for this incident. The SEOC Assessment room will be staffed around the clock until 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 3, 2011.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

A major winter storm has affected a large portion of the United States, including the entire state of Ohio. A blizzard warning was in effect for far northwest Ohio and a winter storm warning was in effect for areas along and north of the I-70 corridor last night through this morning. Strong winds increased during the evening on Tuesday and into Wednesday, causing near white-out conditions in northwest Ohio. The combination of ice accumulation and high winds caused power outages across the state. Heavy ice accumulations, especially in a band from Dayton to Columbus through northeast Ohio, are expected to cause continued power interruptions, which may result in the need for emergency sheltering and feeding assistance and assistance for medically fragile populations.

DECLARATIONS

Stark County

WEATHER

Today's Weather Forecast

Temperatures in Ohio are falling rapidly, freezing any remaining precipitation. Some lingering light snow showers are possible tonight primarily near to and north of the I-70 corridor. Only light accumulations are expected. Lake Erie is mostly ice-covered, so lake-enhanced snow in northeast Ohio will not be a factor. On Wednesday afternoon there will be continued wind and blowing snow in far northwest Ohio, and there will be strong winds sustained at 20-30 mph with gusts to 45 mph causing some further tree damage and potential power outages elsewhere in the area. Winds will decrease some this evening to sustained speeds of 15-20 mph, with gusts of 20-30 mph, and then will slowly diminish by Thursday morning.

A strong cold front crossed through the state this morning and caused temperatures to fall from early high temperatures. Wind chills tonight will range from near zero to the positive single digits, and low temperatures tonight are expected to range from near zero in northwest OH, to the mid teens across central and southeast Ohio. High temperatures on Thursday should range from the teens over northwest Ohio to the 20s elsewhere. Lows Thursday night are forecast to range from near -4 over northwest Ohio to around 15 over southern Ohio. High temperatures on Friday should be in the 20s over northwest Ohio and the mid-30s to the south.

The next weather system is expected to affect the region Friday night into Saturday. There is still uncertainty regarding the details of the system, but it may bring light snow to the northwest portion of the state, with rain and snow in southeast Ohio. The precipitation may extend into Sunday before it ends.

Snow Emergency Levels

Level 1- Defiance, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Madison, Marion, Medina, Wayne, Wood

Level 2 - Allen, Crawford, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Holmes, Huron, Logan, Lucas, Miami, Morrow, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Union, Williams

Level 3 - Champaign, Darke, Mercer

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Department of Transportation was out in force overnight dealing with snow/icing conditions with much improvement in highway conditions by the AM commute. Statewide, ODOT is reporting dry roadways in the south-central portion of the state, with mostly wet conditions in

southwest and central Ohio. North of I-70, conditions are moderate snow and ice. ODOT currently has 976 crews working this event for snow/ice with some being diverted to debris missions caused by falling trees. ODOT also has some road restrictions and closures due to flooding in southeastern Ohio. Several signals are down in the Franklin County area and are being repaired at this time.

Roadway Closures and Restrictions

High Water: Vinton County - SR 328 (partial closing), Gurnsey County - SR 146 (closed).

Debris and Downed Power Lines: Clinton County - SR 729, Greene County - SR 370, and Mahoning County - SR 289.

All of the closures are expected to clear during the day today.

ESF- 6 – Mass Care

American Red Cross (ARC)

County Name	# of Shelters Open	Approximate Population	Warming Stations Open
Carroll	0	0	1
Champaign	2	0	0
Delaware	1	8	1
Greene	2	40	1
Montgomery	2	10	0
Stark	3	19	6
Wayne	0	0	1

Total Sheltered Population is approximately 77

Total Shelters open are 10

Total Warming stations open are 10

Ohio VOAD

Lutheran Disaster Services had been contacted to work with Kensington Place, a senior living facility in Franklin County which has approximately 200-300 apartment residences. This facility lost power and phone service this morning. Lutheran Disaster Services will be working with them to determine if any assistance is needed. At this time, no state-level assistance has been requested.

ESF-7 – Resources and Logistics

Ohio Department of Administrative Services

A list of available generators for rental or purchase in the state has been developed by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and Ohio EMA.

ESF-8 – Public Health and Medical Services

The Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Aging (ODAge) and Ohio Emergency Management Agency are working together on a public information release. A release was sent out by ODAge identifying how older Ohioans and those with medical needs could seek assistance.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) maintains a syndromic disease surveillance system. In addition to monitoring for infectious disease clusters, ODH can also use this system to monitor for poisoning clusters, including carbon monoxide poisoning, that report to hospital emergency departments. Below are counts for the past 2 weeks that specifically reference carbon monoxide poisoning or exposure in some manner. This does not include more general chief complaints that might indicate CO poisoning (headache, cough, dizziness). Today's report included a cluster of three elderly persons (greater than 70 years old), who initially presented at Grady Memorial Hospital and were transferred to OSU Hospital.

Date	# Patients Reporting with CO Symptoms	Date	# Patients Reporting with CO Symptoms
Jan. 20	3	Jan. 26	2
Jan. 21	5	Jan. 27	6
Jan. 22	14	Jan. 29	2
Jan. 23	7	Jan. 30	3
Jan. 24	13	Jan. 31	2
Jan. 25	8	Feb. 2	8

Geauga County placed their entire roster of the Medical Reserve Corps on 72-hour standby alert due to the severe weather warnings.

Stark County activated their medical volunteers to assist at area shelters. The request is for the next 12 hours to assist with functional needs individuals.

ESF-11 – Food and Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture

The Ohio Department of Agriculture received reports that seventy percent of the dairy farmers in Wayne County are without power. Also, Minerva Dairy in Stark County is without power. The majority of the dairies have backup generators and local cooperatives will also provide assistance. ODA will continue to monitor the situation and make the necessary contacts for any needed resources.

ESF-12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

As of 7:00 a.m. this morning, Ohio's electric utility companies were reporting that approximately 168,000 customers were out of power statewide. Of that total, approximately 102,000 outages were reported by American Electric Power. The majority of those outages were located in Delaware,

Stark and Franklin counties. Approximately 42,000 outages were reported by Dayton Power & Light, with the outages scattered throughout their service territory. First Energy reported 4,200 outages, centered mainly in Cuyahoga and Clark Counties. Approximately 5,800 outages were reported by Duke Energy-Ohio, with most of those located in Butler and Clark counties. Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives reported that 14,000 homes and businesses were without power.

Utility company personnel reported that they were waiting for daylight hours this morning to better access the damages and to estimate restoration times. Preliminary reports from the electric companies indicated that outage durations will vary widely across the state, with all outages expected to be resolved by Sunday, February 6th.

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

At approximately midnight last night (February 1st) the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station lost one out of three sources of offsite power due to high winds that thrust building material from a construction site into the switchyard. The sustained winds were approximately 55 mph. The source of offsite power was restored at 2:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2nd. The plant continued to operate at 100% throughout the incident and there was no impact offsite.

ESF-13 – Law Enforcement

Between midnight on January 31st and February 1st at 3:00 a.m., the Ohio Highway Patrol (OSHP) investigated 1,117 non-fatal vehicle crashes, 3 fatal crashes and 3,348 driver assists. Two of the fatal crashes were not weather-related. One of the fatal crashes is still being investigated and may be weather-related.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

EMA Public Affairs is working with the departments of Health, Aging and Job and Family services to do media releases regarding where citizens can receive assistance and who they can call for assistance during this incident. The State Fire Marshal put out a press release on January 31st that addressed increased fire risks, including heating, generator and electrical safety.

EMA Public Affairs worked with the Governor's Press Office to facilitate media availability for Governor Kasich on February 1st at 5:45 p.m. Ohio EMA's Executive Director briefed the governor and staff and ODOT and PUCO Directors on the snow and ice incident and the state's response. Local media from ONN, WTVN Radio, Ohio Public Radio and Columbus, Ohio Channels 4, 6 and 10 attended the briefing.

Public Messaging has continued throughout the day with Channel 6, Columbus Dispatch, FOX News and ABC News. ABC News has a crew in northern Ohio and is contacting county EMAs to determine which areas are most affected by power outages.

OTHER STATE AGENCY REPORTS

Ohio Board of Regents

Ohio's state supported higher education institutions experienced varying levels of disruption on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, some institutions cancelled classes for all or part of the day, while others closed, stopping all but essential services and operations. Much the same occurred on Wednesday, with some institutions cancelling classes and other ceasing all but essential services for the day. No major issues were reported at any of the institutions and all essential services were unaffected.

COUNTY-LEVEL REPORTS

County EOCs Open Beyond Normal Hours		
Butler*	Delaware	Miami
Carroll	Franklin*	Stark*
Columbiana	Greene	Wayne
Darke*	*Denotes 24 hour operations	

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

The next CAS-1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2011. Please send Situation Report information to eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us.