



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: Heavy Rains – February 2011
DATE: March 2, 2011

Information in this Situation Report is current as of 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2011.

In response to the “Heavy Rains – February 2011” event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated to a Crisis Action Level 2 (CAS-2) on Monday, February 28, 2011.

CAS-2 briefings were held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activation level will be reduced to CAS-1 and the SEOC close at 5:00 p.m. today. The Assessment Room will close at 7:00 p.m. today and will reopen at 7:00 a.m. on March 3, 2011.

During overnight hours, assistance requests will be fielded via an enhanced Duty Officer at 614-889-7150.

A CAS-1 briefing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 3rd.

This is the third Situation Report for this incident.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

- Heavy rains and thunderstorms moved through the state overnight February 27-28 as 3-4 inches of rain accumulated over a 24 hour period in already saturated areas across northern Ohio. This system exited the state and a second wave of precipitation moved through southern Ohio later in the day. Warm temperatures, heavy snow pack and snow melt resulted in moderate to major flooding in areas of the state.
- One weather-related fatality was confirmed in Huron County. On February 28th, a 51-year-old woman from North Fairfield was swept away in her car by flood waters in Norwalk, Ohio.

- An EF1 tornado near Millersport in Fairfield County was confirmed by the NWS on Monday, February 28. Impacts included damages to a farm, barns, metal grain bin, trees, and two residences resulting in a roof and an exterior wall being destroyed. The tornado's path was 75 yards wide and 2.4 miles in length.
- Currently, there are 4 shelters open throughout the state with a total population of 32 persons.
- Preliminary damage assessments are ongoing in some affected counties.
- The State Emergency Operations Center Joint Information Center became operational today.
- The State Emergency Operations Center continues to monitor river crests for impacts, including potential issues with debris, waste water, sewage, and shelters.
- Major to moderate flood river levels are being reported in northern Ohio and also minor flooding in southern Ohio. Some rivers in Ohio are still slowly rising and flooding continues to be a problem.
- There are no unmet needs being reported at this time.

DECLARATIONS

County: Auglaize, Logan, Lorain, Mercer, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Stark and Summit.

WEATHER

Today: Flood warnings remain in effect for areas throughout Ohio. No rainfall is forecast across Ohio today. High temperatures will be in the upper 30s to the north, in the low 40s in central Ohio, and near 50 to the south.

Tonight: Skies will be mostly clear to partly cloudy tonight. Temperatures will fall into the teens to the north and into the low 20s to the north.

Future forecast: The next chance for rain will occur Thursday night through Saturday night.

The following 43 counties are under National Weather Service Flood Warnings: Allen, Ashland, Athens, Carroll, Coshocton, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Gallia, Hancock, Henry, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Pickaway, Pike, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Scioto, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Washington, Wayne, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Ohio EMA Field staff continues to assist county officials with response related needs. Field Liaisons were deployed to Cuyahoga, Hancock, Logan and Richland counties today. No Liaisons will be deployed tomorrow, March 3rd.

The Disaster Recovery Branch provided damage assessment assistance in Morrow County.

STATE-LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS BY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF)

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Road closures are down to 57, with 3 restricted roadways reported. For a complete list of roadway impacts, check www.buckeyetraffic.org. ODOT crews will continue making roadway repairs as needed for damage caused by flooding.

A railroad construction and maintenance company that is a Division of U.S. Rail reported that a shortline railroad in Jackson County had three washouts on a line in Jackson, Ohio. A retaining wall let go and water washed over the tracks, washing out rail sections. Additionally, a culvert collapsed and caused a 7-foot deep sink hole. An additional washout near Dundas, Ohio will require major reconstruction to repair an eroded embankment.

ESF 2 – Communications

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

There are no weather-related communications outages across the state of Ohio. State and regional resources remain ready to support as needed. Buckeye State Sheriffs Association (BSSA) Communication vehicles remain on standby to support regional interoperability communications requests.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Gates Mills Dam in Cuyahoga County: This low head, exempt dam has washed out due to severe erosion. There is no report of any damage or other impacts due to this dam failure

Ohio Power Company Pond Dam MUR-3 in Muskingum County: This 59-ft-high, Class II dam has a collapsed spillway conduit that has prevented flow and caused the lake level to rise several feet. This incident is not related to the flooding incident. The dam owner (AEP) has a contractor on site and was to begin lowering the water level in the lake starting today by excavating a channel through the right end of the dam. The plan is to slowly lower the lake by excavating this channel deeper each day over a period of several days and maybe even a few weeks. AEP desires to drain the lake almost completely, but will retain enough pool to retain sediment in the lake. Located downstream in the potential impact area are some local roads, residential driveways, and potentially SR 83. These roadways will be monitored for flooding and any necessary precautions taken during the lake level lowering while water is being released.

Lake Burton Dam in Geauga County: This 10-foot-high, Class II dam experienced overtopping by flood flows yesterday. Some homes and other structures are located downstream. The dam appears stable and currently has about 12 inches of freeboard between the lake pool level and the top of the dam.

Osage Lake Dam in Medina County: The pool level has risen due to recent rains after being lowered last week due to a deteriorated spillway riser pipe. The dam is not in danger of failing, and the owners are working with a consultant to develop plans for repairs. The situation is being monitored closely by the dam owners, and the County EMA and other emergency responders have been on site and are aware of what to do if conditions would worsen.

Gravis Lake Dams in Carroll County: These two small dams in series up a valley failed or partially failed yesterday due to heavy rains. These dams are exempt from ODNR authority, and the county EMA is aware of the situation and has been on site.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

A precautionary, system-wide drinking water boil alert was issued by the City of Kenton in Hardin County, which was reported through outreach by Division of Drinking and Ground Water. Ohio EPA has received nearly 100 reports of sewage overflows and bypasses due to heavy rain and flooding. Ohio EPA will continue to provide support to affected counties on debris management and disposal as flood waters recede and issues are identified.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Emergency Management Agency – ESF-6 Staff

ESF-6 staff continues to monitor mass care activity.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Shelter Activity			
Shelter Name	County	Shelter Type (Overnight/warming)	Shelter population
Hancock County Area on Aging - Findlay	Hancock	Overnight	15
Dry Lane Construction – La Rue	Marion	Overnight	8
Trinity United Methodist Church - Ottawa	Putnam	Overnight	6
United Methodist Church - Mansfield	Richland	Overnight	3

**Number of Shelters Reporting: 4
 Shelter Population Reported: 32**

Ohio VOAD

Ohio VOAD reports that they are beginning to receive calls for assistance for debris removal. Call 740-732-6700 (Lutheran Social Services/Ohio VOAD) for any needs.

Ohio Department of Mental Health

A five-five bed mental health group home was evacuated in Findlay on Monday due to water surrounding the immediate area, the facility itself was not flooded. Mental Health services were available around-the-clock. Providers are ready to provide onsite counseling at shelters and in coordination with ARC as needed.

ESF-8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

The Ohio Department of Health continues to maintain contact with local health departments in the impacted counties. No assistance has been requested at this time. ODH continues to monitor long-term care facilities and no facilities have reported any evacuations at this time. ODH is working with new local Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) coordinators to ensure that those coordinators are able to use the Ohio Responds volunteer registry system to call up MRC volunteers as they are needed. This assistance has included just-in-time training for the coordinators.

ESF-10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Ohio EPA anticipates providing additional support as the recession of flood waters exposes fuel tanks and other containers that have been relocated (orphaned) by flood water moving through residential and commercial properties.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA)

Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch

During the 3:00 p.m. briefing, there was a discussion of a mitigation project success story in the Village of Valley View. The project was implemented as a result of the last major flood event in Cuyahoga County, in 2006. The project elevated nine residential structures two feet above the 100-year flood level, and will acquire and demolish one other structure. All of these structures are located in the federally-identified flood hazard area and have been flooded multiple times. Since many of the property owners had flood insurance, they were able to access Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) funds to help cover the 25% non-federal cost share for this project. ICC funds, state funds, and local dollars were used as match in this project. In addition to the HMGP project funded in 2008, the Village successfully applied for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program funds in 2010 and will begin another elevation project next month to elevate 13 residential structures.

Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch

Public Assistance Damage Assessment guidance was sent to county EMA directors of impacted counties today via email. Also, Branch Staff has engaged with multiple county EMA offices and continue to provide damage assessment and debris management technical assistance to the private and public sectors.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

The Joint Information Center (JIC) received no media inquiries today. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is compiling a handout for use by county EMAs to inform citizens on health and safety tips while cleaning up after a flood. ODH is also working on a press release for homeowners and food businesses on food safety after flooding.

The Dept. of Insurance is putting together a press release on flood insurance purchasing information.

The JIC will reduce its conference calls to one call per day at 1:30 pm, effective March 3.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

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