



# STATE OF OHIO

## Emergency Operations Center

### SITUATION REPORT

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John R. Kasich, Governor

**FROM:** Ohio Emergency Management Agency

**SUBJECT:** Statewide Severe Weather – March 2, 2012

**DATE:** March 3, 2012

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This is the first Situation Report for this incident. Information in this Situation Report is current as of 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2012.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012 to monitor the “Statewide Severe Weather – March 2, 2012” event. On Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. the SEOC moved to Crisis Action Level 1 (CAS-1)

CAS-1 briefings were held at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on March 3, 2012. The SEOC Assessment Room closed at 9:00 p.m. Saturday and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 4.

The next CAS-1 briefing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 4.

### **FATALITIES**

The storms resulted in three (3) fatalities in Clermont County: James Prater, 54 and Bill Adkins, 58, both of Bethel; and Carol Forste, 64, Village of Moscow Councilwoman.

### **INCIDENT SYNOPSIS**

Severe weather, including numerous unconfirmed tornados, moved through Clermont County during the evening hours on March 2, 2012, causing damage in the southern-most part of the county, near Felicity, Moscow and Bethel.

The Village of Moscow has extensive damage, with 50-60 structures of approximately 100 reported damaged; 20 – 25 are severely damaged or destroyed. A number of gas leaks were reported Friday night into today and residents left the area; residents were allowed to return at 4:00 p.m. today and a curfew for non-residents goes into effect at 11:00 p.m.

The Clermont County Building Department evaluated the habitability of structures in Moscow today. Some people currently staying in their homes may be required to leave. This may cause an increase in shelter populations. The Clermont County EOC is activated.

Today Governor Kasich visited the Village of Moscow and New Richmond High School (shelter/press conference site). Ohio. U.S. Senator Ron Portman and U.S. Representative Jean Schmidt also toured the area today. The County held a press conference at 2:00 p.m. at the New Richmond High School.

A Liaison from the Ohio National Guard is in the Clermont County EOC.

### **Sheltering**

The peak sheltering population for the event was 12, with two persons sheltered overnight. Currently, only one person remains sheltered at the New Richmond High school.

### **Impacts to State Infrastructure**

ODOT Adams County Garage in West Union - The metal building adjacent to the state garage blew over and onto state property causing damage to several state vehicles and dump trucks. The salt building onsite had one wall blown out. The facility is still operational.

### **DECLARATIONS**

State: Governor Kasich issued a declaration for Clermont County today, Saturday, March 3.

County: Clermont County

### **WEATHER**

Much colder air moved into the state today. The wind advisories have expired, but there are still occasional gusts. Low temperatures tonight will drop into the upper 20s statewide under mostly cloudy skies. Snow showers will move into the state on Sunday a high of 40. Some snow accumulations are possible in parts of Ohio with 1-2 inches in some areas of northern Ohio. On Monday high temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s with drier conditions.

### **FIELD OPERATIONS**

Ohio EMA Field Liaison remains in Clermont County to assist with EOC operations.

### **COUNTY IMPACTS**

#### **Clermont County (Update as of 8pm 3/3)**

**Fatalities:** 3 confirmed deaths. James Prater, 54 and Bill Adkins, 58, both of Bethel; and Carol Forste, 64 a Village of Moscow councilwoman.

**Injuries:** 5 people transported to hospital.

**Area Impacted:** Tate Township, Bethel, Felicity, and Moscow/Washington Township (most damages)

**Declaration:** County State of Emergency. The Governor has issued a verbal declaration for Clermont County.

**County EOC:** Open until 11pm then will close or have minimal staffing. The Incident Command Post (Moscow) will also close at 11pm, except for a Law Enforcement presence.

**Search and Rescue:** Conducted a secondary search today 3/3, no new findings.

**Law Enforcement:** Has a perimeter security in place. 4 Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Officers are assigned in Moscow to assist with security operations and 1 Officer is assigned to the County EOC.

**Damage Assessments:** County Building Dept. is making determinations of habitable structures in Moscow today 3/3, and the ARC is also conducting assessments. At least 50 of the 90-95 homes in Moscow are damaged/destroyed.

**Re-Entry:** Citizens of Moscow will be allowed to enter the area at 4pm today 3/3 for the first time. There will be a curfew tonight at 11pm.

**Shelter:** 1 open at the New Richmond High school, 3/3 noontime population was 17. Due to the high amount of uninhabitable houses and low temperatures overnight, it is expected that the shelter populations could increase.

**Mass Care:** A Family Assistance Center will be set up by ARC in Moscow area. There are 3-5 ARC Emergency Response Vehicles deploying to the area on 3/3. Meals are being provided to residents and ICP in Moscow/Washington Township. A Donations Management Center and a Volunteer Reception Center is being set up.

**Power:** 930 outages as of 6:00 p.m. on March 3. The Village of Moscow electric has been shut off. PUCO reports that a Duke transmission tower was toppled near the Zimmer Plant. 4 transmission towers and approximately 100 downed utility poles were damaged. Duke has estimated that it will restore the outages (to houses and buildings that are restorable) by midnight 3/4. Power lines down on roads in Moscow have been cleared. The transmission line down across Ohio River causing shut down of river traffic was removed and the river was reopened, per Coast Guard at 10:45am on 3/3.

**Facilities:** Moscow Sewage Treatment Plant is without power; a backup generator was installed today 3/3. Duke is working on restoring power to the plant, ETA 12pm 3/4. Tate-Monroe Water Plant is running on backup generators and is operational. No issue with drinking water.

**Debris:** Major issue, beginning estimates and operations today 3/3. The County is drafting a Debris Management Plan and is working with the State to organize a Debris Working Group.

**Beetle Quarantine:** Issue with the Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle infestation; part of Clermont County was quarantined (pre-event) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this necessitates some additional coordination for appropriate disposition of debris. The USDA Project Manager for the issue is on-site. Persons/companies managing debris in the quarantine area should contact the USDA at 513-381-7180, Address: 1761 State Route 125, Suite A, Amelia, OH. A debris pickup area is at 2896 State Route 232, Bethel, OH. There is a tub

grinder to chip woody debris (fallen trees) originating only from Tate Township only (previous operation was already in place).

**ODOT:** Crews have re-opened State Route 744, 133, 743 and US 52. 14 personnel have removed trees and debris with chainsaws and loaders clearing State Routes and have been demobilized 3/3. The ODOT County Manager at the Clermont County EOC has been released.

**Road Closures:** Swope Road, Jones Florer Road, from Hoover to SR 744. (Source: County 6am Sitrep 3/3).

**Assistance:** A Liaison from the Ohio National Guard has been deployed to the County EOC (MAJ Mike Berry). The Southwest Ohio Incident Management Team (IMT) is in the County EOC. Hamilton County USAR team demobilized. Coca-Cola donated a semi load of soda and water.

**Communications:** Amateur Radio Repeater down due to power outage; will be restored today 3/3 with a generator. No radio communication challenges. MARCS tower in Moscow on generator power. The Verizon tower in southern Clermont County is operating inconsistently (not incident related, occurred prior to tornado touchdown). Unknown restoration time.

**VIP Visits:** The Governor was on-site touring the area today 3/3. The County held a press conference at 2pm at the New Richmond High School (shelter). Senator Portman and U.S. Representative Schmidt also toured the area today 3/3.

#### **Adams County (updated as of 4pm on 3/3)**

**Injuries:** Three confirmed injuries, one 99-year old transported to Cincinnati hospital.

**Area Impacted:** In isolated areas, near the Shi Valley/Cedar Mills roads area, east of the county seat West Union, the NWS officials confirmed an eF3. There is another area southwest from there that is confirmed at an eF1.

**Power:** County EMA director reports that Adams Rural Electric has 600 customers without power (peak of 1,000), especially in the areas of Shi Valley Road and Cedar Mills. A transformer was down from the storm.

**Shelter:** Most residents have places to go for shelter. Director attempting to coordinate with ARC to get food/clothing vouchers to five families with destroyed homes.

**Damage Assessments:** Director reported five homes totally destroyed (previous report of 15 was an estimate). Other damages were minor and not of any major significance.

**Wal-mart:** Wants to donate to the county. EMA Director coordinating.

**Communications:** MARCS towers in Blue Creek and West Union on generator power.

#### **Scioto County (update as of 4pm on 3/3)**

**Area Impacted:** Village of Otway.

**Damage Assessments:** Took place today 3/3. NWS estimates the tornado (from Adams County) went through Scioto County as an eF0. 2 residential homes have structural damages

and 2 government buildings have damages (insured; community center and fire department vehicle building previously reported).

**Mass Care:** ARC helped two people overnight 3/2 due to power outages, which are now restored.

**Debris:** ODOT crews worked debris missions clearing construction and tree from roadways primarily in the Otway area. Debris management removal will be minimal and handled by the Village.

**Roads:** State Route 239 at West Portsmouth is closed due to high water and debris and is estimated to re-open on 3/5. Motorists may detour via State Route 73.

**River:** The Ohio River at Portsmouth is at 43.5ft and is projected to rise to 45.7ft (flood stage is 50ft.). Flood pumps are engaged.

### **Pike County (update as of 4pm on 3/3)**

**Area Impacted:** Southwest of Jasper.

**Damages:** Damage assessments took place this morning 3/3. Mostly debris; one home/trailer was destroyed in Longfork area (Loys Run) due to a tree falling on it.

### **Brown County (update as of 3/2)**

**Area Impacted:** Vicinity of Hamersville.

**Damages:** Damage assessments to take place this morning 3/3. At least 2 structures destroyed/collapsed.

**Rescues:** At least 2 people trapped and rescued.

**ODOT:** Minimal damage on highway reported, trees and construction debris cleared along State Route 763, 774, and US62.

### **Gallia County (update as of 3/3)**

**ODOT:** High water closures on State Route 775 and State Route 218.

### **Athens County (update as of 3/3)**

**ODOT:** High water closures on State Route 550 and State Route 356. County EMA Director reports these are low-lying areas that commonly flood with the amount of rain received last night 3/2.

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

### **ESF 1 – Transportation**

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT crews anticipate snow and rain tomorrow and are ready to respond.

Four state routes are closed due to high water; SR-356 in Athens County, SR-218 and SR-775 in Gallia County and SR-239 in Scioto County.

#### Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

Supported traffic control missions around the Village of Moscow.

### **ESF 2 – Communications**

#### MARCS

Three MARCS towers are operating on generators. The MARCS Office is monitoring the generators and is ensuring sufficient fuel levels to maintain operations

### **ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works**

#### Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT completed all on-highway debris missions today. Crews remain on stand-by for debris mission and will respond as necessary.

#### Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Ohio DNR will help coordinate upcoming debris missions in Clermont County.

#### Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Ohio EPA is assisting Clermont County via a mission to provide a debris staging area representative. The representative will assist in approving appropriate locations for staging debris.

### **ESF 4 – Fire**

#### State Fire Marshal's Office (SFM)

The State Fire Marshal's Office is ready to offer assistance to the Village of Otway (Scioto County) Fire Department that had vehicles and buildings damaged in the storm.

## **ESF 6 – Mass Care**

### American Red Cross

As of noon on Saturday, March 3, the National Shelter System is reporting one shelter open in Clermont County with a population of 17.

ARC will establish a Family Assistance Center in the Moscow area.

### Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Ohio VOAD)

Lutheran Disaster Response conducted a Prayer Vigil at 7:00 p.m. this evening at the Boys and Girls Club in New Richmond, Ohio.

Southern Baptist members contacted Clermont County officials regarding debris removal and told assistance was not needed at this time.

Lutheran Disaster Response, United Methodist and United Church of Christ response organizations are reporting to the Volunteer Reception Center. The VRC is reported as being open at the Thomas A. Wildey School, 2040 US Highway 50, Batavia.

VOAD organizations are available for assistance with debris removal, spiritual care and donations management as needed.

## **ESF 7 – Resource Support**

### Ohio DAS and Ohio EMA

Ohio DAS and Ohio EMA are prepared to coordinate potential resourcing missions in support of debris and housing missions, should the need arise.

## **ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services**

### Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Nothing significant to report.

## **ESF 9 – Search & Rescue**

### Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

State assistance for Search and Rescue Operations was not requested. Local search and rescue assessment of the area in Moscow was concluded without incident.

## **ESF 11 - Agriculture**

Correction: The Department of Agriculture has quarantined part of Clermont County for both the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long Horn Beetle. This will require additional coordination for appropriate disposition of debris.

The area quarantined for the Asian Longhorn Beetle already had tree removal operations in place before the storm. There was already resources in the area to conduct the special cutting and chipping of woody debris in order to take the debris offsite.

## **ESF 12 – Energy**

### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Duke Energy has completed a damage assessment and found four damaged transmission towers and approximately 100 downed utility poles. As of 6:00 p.m., Duke reports 318 homes and businesses remain without power, with the bulk in Clermont County (224). Duke has estimated that it will restore the outages (to houses and buildings that are restorable) by midnight Sunday, March 4.

## **ESF 14 – Recovery**

### Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

Debris and Housing Working Groups will begin coordinating state level recovery efforts in the SEOC on Sunday.

## **ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs**

Ohio EMA Public Affairs is responding to media inquiry from local and national news outlets to include: ABC News, CBS Weekend News, CNN, The Weather Channel, Reuters, Fox News, and NBC News.

Two press releases have been distributed to media outlets today:

- State EOC Activates in response to severe weather in SW Ohio
- ODA release: Clermont County residents with storm damage to trees encouraged to check for signs of Asian Long-horned Beetle
- One pending press release: State Update/Governor's Declaration

## **BRIEFING/SITREP DATA**

All agencies should email their briefing reports by 2:30 p.m. to: [eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us).

The next CAS-1 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Sunday, March 4.