



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 24, 2008

This is the fourth SitRep for the "March 2008 Heavy Rains" event. Information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 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 a 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.

The Governor 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. The Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio EMA Field Operations Branch Chief also attended the meeting.

CURRENT SITUATION

Floodwaters are receding. As of 4:00 p.m. 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 continue and all shelters are closed. The Army Corps of Engineers has established an operating center at the Village of Zoar Volunteer Fire Department to assist with monitoring the repairs to the Zoar Levee, for which the Corps has responsibility. A filter blanket to shore up the levee is half-complete and should be finished by Wednesday morning. The Tuscarawas County EMA has reopened 24-hour operations until levee repairs are finalized.

The SEOC Assessment Room will remain open during normal business hours. The Ohio EMA Duty Officer will be available by calling 614-889-7150.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency will continue to monitor the situation in cooperation with federal, state, and local partners.

DECLARATIONS

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

WEATHER

Weather Summary

In the northern part of Ohio there will be scattered snow flurries and across the rest of the state skies will be partly cloudy to start the week. Highs reached the lower 40's today. Tonight temperatures will fall to near or below freezing. On Tuesday a mixture of rain and snow may arrive by late afternoon, with highs reaching the high 40s in the north and 50s in the south.

A front is expected to become nearly stationary in the vicinity of southern Ohio Thursday and Friday. With this system wintry precipitation is expected over the northern quarter of the state, and rain is likely to the south. Embedded thunderstorms and rainfall moving over similar areas will bring the possibility of heavier rainfall amounts near and just north of the stalled front. The system should clear the state by Saturday afternoon.

Many flood warnings in western and southern Ohio expired through the weekend and today. The Muskingum Basin rivers and streams will steadily fall over the next 48 hours, though they can be expected to fall more slowly due to upstream reservoir releases. Killbuck Creek near Killbuck should fall below the flood stage by midday tomorrow.

Warnings and Watches

Flood Warnings

Coshocton, Holmes, Tuscarawas, and Wayne counties

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Roadways continue to open as anticipated, and are currently down to 26 closures with 5 restrictions statewide.

ODOT has determined SR 7 in Washington County, between Newport and New Matamoras, to be unsafe and closed the roadway pending additional subsurface investigations. This has been reflected in BuckeyeTraffic.org with the recommended detours. The length of the closure is unknown at this time, but current estimates indicate that the road may reopen on March 31, 2008.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

American Red Cross (ARC)

Three shelters are on stand-by in Tuscarawas County.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Nothing significant to report at this time.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

Today, OSHP Aviation provided an overflight of the areas around the Zoar Levee, to Colonel Dana Hurst, Commander of the Huntington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and his staff. The overflight covered Tuscarawas County and surrounding areas, allowing Colonel Hurst and his staff to view the current flood impacts and to better assess and determine a course of action.

ESF 14 – Recovery and Mitigation

Disaster Recovery Branch (DRB)

Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch staff continues to engage the affected and declared counties, providing technical assistance on collecting and analyzing private sector damage assessments.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

Ohio Department of Public Safety

The numbers of incoming media calls remained high over the weekend due to interest in Midwestern U.S. flooding, and calls have dropped off significantly today.

COUNTY IMPACTS

Belmont County

County will be declaring at the regularly scheduled County Commissioners meeting on Wednesday due to several embankment failures on county and township roads. No state assistance is requested at this time.

Butler County

The Butler County Emergency Management Agency reports that 36 residential structures are affected, three have sustained minor damage.

Carroll County

The county declared this morning. This declaration is due to the closures of State Routes 39 and 542. Re-routed truck traffic (tractor trailers) has caused a deterioration of local roads. The county and local road budgets are insufficient to repair the damage that the detour has caused.

The county EMA is working with a resident isolated in the Delroy area; this resident has a vehicle that was not moved out of the isolation area prior to the water rising. The resident was advised to seek out a private towing/hauling company to move vehicle through the high-water and out of isolation. In the interim, the county EMA advised that it will help coordinate travel for the resident through Carroll Transit. The travel assistance will be provided for health and welfare trips or other serious needs.

Hamilton County

The Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency has begun conducting preliminary damage assessments. Hamilton County EMA reports that 50 residential structures are affected, 1 has received minor damage, and eight have received major damage.

Huron County

Huron County declared an emergency in support of the City of Bellevue which made a local declaration today. The local declaration is due to groundwater flooding in an approximately 10 square-block area of the city. The city requested pumps to assist in getting water out of the low lying area to a drainage ditch that would take water out of the city. Ohio EMA worked with DAS to obtain a list of contract resources to forward on to the city. The city has since contracted with a vendor for pumps and discharge hose. No additional assistance has been requested from the state.

Morgan County

The Morgan County Commissioners issued an Emergency Proclamation today. The proclamation was made due to infrastructure damages sustained during this flood event.

Tuscarawas County

The EOC is back to 24 hour operation due to the levee situation around the Village of Zoar. The Red Cross is on standby with three shelter locations if necessary. The county is working closely with Army Corps of Engineers to determine future actions and the Corps has established an operating center at the Village of Zoar Volunteer Fire Department. The Governor and the Corps of Engineer's Huntington District Commander toured the levee and village on Easter Sunday. No state resources or assistance is requested at this time.

The Corps of Engineers is working to repair the levee and the temporary filter blanket is approximately 50 percent complete as of the 2:00 p.m. briefing, and work should be completed by the morning of Wednesday, 26 March 2008.

Warren County

The county has conducted preliminary damage assessments, and the Warren County EMA reports that 16 to 20 structures are affected, 4 to 5 have received major damage.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 1 Briefing: The next CAS 1 briefing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. The SEOC Assessment Room will remain open during normal business hours.

All agencies should email their briefing reports and updates to: eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us.