



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: February 28, 2011

Information in this Situation Report is current as of 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2011.

In response to the “Heavy Rains – February 2011” event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated at Crisis Action Level 1 (CAS-1) on Monday, February 28, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. and was elevated to CAS-2 at 10:00 a.m. (opening EOC Ops Room and JIC).

CAS-1 & 2 briefings were held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today. **The next CAS-2 briefing will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1.**

This is the first Situation Report for this incident. The SEOC Assessment Room will be staffed 24 hours through Tuesday, March 1, 2011.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Heavy rains and thunderstorms moved through the state overnight February 27-28 as 3-4” of rain accumulated over a 24 hour period in already saturated areas across northern Ohio. This system has exited the state and a second wave of precipitation will move through Southern Ohio today and is not forecasted to be as severe. Warm temperatures, heavy snow pack and snow melt are resulting in moderate to major flooding in areas of the state. The State Emergency Operations Center will monitor river crests and falling temperatures over the next 48 hours for impacts, including potential issues with debris, waste water, sewage, and shelters. A flood watch is in effect for the northern counties in the state through the evening.

Major to moderate flood river levels are being reported in northern Ohio. Near record flooding is being recorded on the Cuyahoga River at Independence (beginning to fall) and major flooding on the Scioto River at Larue and Prospect. A dam failure at Gates Mills on the Chagrin River was

reported, however the flash flood warning has been canceled, and flood waters were absorbed into the ongoing Chagrin River flooding- impacts were minimal.

No fatalities have been reported; one person is reported missing in Huron County. Currently there are 16 shelters are open with a population of 104; rescues and evacuations continue; numerous road closures reported.

There are no unmet needs being reported. One request for 10,000 sand bags for Auglaize County was filled by OEMA. No additional requests for state or federal assistance.

DECLARATIONS

County: Auglaize, Lorain, Mercer, Morrow, Richland

WEATHER

Today: Widespread flooding continued as a second round of showers and storms moved quickly through the southern portion state. Cooler air will spill into the state as the storms move out, and light flurries are possible late this afternoon in northern Ohio.

Tonight: Temperatures tonight should fall into the low to mid 20's in the north and mid to upper 20's in the south.

Flood Warnings: A flood watch is in effect for the northern counties in the state through the evening.

Tuesday: Dry, cooler, and quiet.

Future forecast: No additional forecast precipitation after today through Wednesday. Thursday to Friday more rain is expected. River levels may still be high but receding.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Representatives from the Field Operations Branch of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) continue to assist county officials with response related needs. Two Field Liaisons have been deployed to Cuyahoga and Loraine Counties. A total of 26 counties have reported, many with mostly basement flooding and minor evacuations.

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

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Ohio Department of Transportation is currently maintaining detours/signage for 89 closures and 7 restricted routes. The only interstate highway flooding reported is on IS-75 in Allen County at the MP 125 ramps and on the IS-480 ramp to Broadway in Cuyahoga County. Additionally SR

174 Bridge over the Cuyahoga River in Gates Mills is currently under water, the Village of Gates Mills has closed the road and the District Bridge Engineer is en route to monitor the situation.

The ODOT Independence Garage in District 12, Cleveland, had to be evacuated due to flooding. All vehicles, personnel and equipment at the site are secure. Last report was water was as high as the loading ramp and is expected to rise two more feet today.

Crews will continue to work on system debris missions and maintaining detours throughout the day and evening. No mission requests pending; anticipate some debris missions as the flood water recedes.

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers continue to patrol major highways, investigate crashes and assist stranded motorists. There have been 25 crashes involving the weather. A crash in Washington County involved a tree that fell on vehicle occurred on SR 26 near milepost 8. The occupant was not injured but was transported to the hospital. The Highway Patrol Aviation Unit is not currently flying due to weather. No requests to conduct fly-overs of affected areas have been received.

ESF 2 – Communications

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

One weather related communications outage is being reported. The Carey tower located southeast of Findlay in Wyandot County has significant flooding inside the equipment shelter. There are three other towers in and around the Findlay area. The Carey tower outage will most likely affect communications around the SR 15/23 merger. Calls were made to the BSSA Communications Vehicle owners in the N/W region of the state. No deployments have been requested.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

No report.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

No requests received. ODNR crews have been placed on stand-by for debris removal.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)

Ohio EPA has not received any reports of significant impacts from any Public Water Supply facilities through either the Emergency Spill Hotline or Division of Drinking and Ground Water contacts. Ohio EPA has received reports of sewage overflows/bypasses due to rain/flooding from at least 39 wastewater treatment facilities in 24 counties. One wastewater treatment facility was reportedly flooded, offline, and discharging directly into the Cuyahoga River; Cuyahoga Heights, Cuyahoga County, however it is now back on-line.

ESF 4 – Fire

State Fire Marshall's Office (SFM)

Nothing significant to report. No activations through the State Emergency Response Plan.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

Ohio Emergency Management ESF-6 staff continues to monitor and support mass care activity.

American Red Cross (ARC)

As of 2:00 p.m. the American Red Cross reports 16 shelters are open with a population of 104. The majority of shelter occupants are in Allen County (population 40), Lake County (population 40), and Mercer County (population 20). There are seven shelters not yet reporting. There are six reception/evacuation centers reported open with a population of 53- Richland County (population 43) and Lake County (population 10). There are three centers not yet reporting.

Ohio VOAD

Volunteers are on stand-by to assist with sand bagging in Auglaize County and with debris removal in Shelby or Hardin Counties. Volunteers are also available to assist with volunteer reception centers if needed.

Ohio Department of Aging

Nothing reported at this time.

Job and Family Services

Nothing reported at this time.

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Nothing reported at this time.

Ohio Citizen Corps

No reports of Citizen Corps Programs activated at this time.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

Ohio Department of Administration Services (DAS)

Nothing significant to report.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Ohio Department of Health reached out to local health departments in the counties with declared emergencies. No public health assistance has been requested from ODH at this time. There are no known long term care facility issues at this time. ODH PIO has a web site feature up that addresses flood hazards and safety precautions including food and drinking water safety measures as well as generator safety. ODH PIO is coordinating with State virtual JIC and is contacting regional public health PIOs to provide any needed information.

ESF 9 – Search & Rescue

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR completed a mission requested by Grand Lake Parks to assist with the evacuation of nine people from Hecht's Landing in Montezuma (Mercer County). Two people were transported to a local hospital, treated and released. ODNR provided two boats, four Officers, and an Area Supervisor. It was estimated that a total of 35-45 people were rescued from the area. Officers are currently responding to the Town of Arlington to assist in some possible evacuations on the Blanchard River in Hancock County.

Two Watercraft Officers and one boat deployed to Huron County for a possible body recovery mission. A vehicle is submerged and the team is waiting for the waters to recede to possibly recover one missing person believed to still be in the vehicle.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Ohio EPA has received several reports of pollution incidents that were attributed to the storm. Clark County reports one transportation accident with a diesel fuel release. Meigs County reports sheen of unknown origin on the Ohio River at RM 194. Additionally four reports were received of unauthorized discharges and/or contaminated storm water at industrial facilities in Marion, Marion County; Kenton, Hardin County; Richwood, Union County; and Mahoning, Trumbull County. Ohio EPA On-Scene Coordinators have or will respond/follow up on these incidents and/or refer to program divisions as appropriate.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Nothing significant to report.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

As of 10:00 a.m. this morning, the total number of power outages across Ohio was approximately 24,176. The majority of power is estimated to be restored by midnight. Power relief crews from Indiana are assisting with pole and wind damage repairs.

- AEP: 13,130 customer outages that are expected to be restored before midnight. The majority of AEP outages are in Fairfield, Franklin, Gallia, Licking, Ross, and Seneca Counties.
- Duke: 7,188 customer outages that are expected to be restored before 9:00 p.m. The majority of outages are in Butler, Hamilton, and Warren Counties.
- First Energy: 1,521 customer outages, the majority in Lake County.
- DP& L: 1,766 customer outages (restore time being recalculated). The majority of outages are in Auglaize, Clark, Green, Highland, and Preble Counties.
- Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative: 571 customer outages in Athens, Jackson, and Vinton Counties.

ESF 14 – Recovery

Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)

Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch continues to work with ODNR Floodplain Management Program to coordinate needs for substantial damage determinations. Mitigation is also working with the PIO to get information out to County Directors regarding the need for damage information (even if not substantial) that can be used to develop future benefit-cost analyses required for mitigation projects.

Ohio EMA Recovery Branch has emailed private sector Damage Assessment forms and the Disaster-Related Building Inspections List to all County EMA offices. Staff is also providing recovery oriented technical assistance to County EMA staff of several affected counties.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

The Virtual JIC conducted a conference call February 28 at 1:30 p.m. with responding state agency PIOs and affected county EMA PIOs regarding the messaging to be distributed related to the flood event.

OTHER STATE AGENCIES

Ohio Department of Homeland Security (OHS)

OHS Infrastructure Protection will continue to monitor the Ohio Gates Mills Dam Failure. At this time there have been no known Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) impacts reported.

BRIEFING/SITREP DATA

The next CAS-2 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Please send Situation Report information to eocassmt@dps.state.oh.us.