



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Strickland, Governor
FROM: Ohio Emergency Management Agency
SUBJECT: September 2008 Statewide High Winds
DATE: September 16, 2008

This is the Situation Report for Tuesday, September 16, 2008. This information is current as of 5:00 p.m. today.

GENERAL SITUATION

On September 14, remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through Ohio with Tropical Storm force winds, causing widespread downing of trees and power lines. As of early afternoon that day, more than 1.9 million customers throughout Ohio were without power. Approximately 20 county Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) were open to support local response operations.

Five people have died as a result of the wind storm.

- Two motorcyclists were struck by debris while riding in Hueston Woods State Park
- One resident was killed when a tree struck her home
- A contractor was electrocuted while attempting a repair at a youth services facility, Scioto Village.
- A 12-year old child was killed by a falling tree in the City of Lorain around 7:20 pm on 9/14/2008.

A missing boater was reported on Lake Milton. Search operations are underway.

In response to this event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Assessment Room was activated as of 6:30 a.m., Monday morning, September 15, 2008. The State EOC escalated activation to CAS Level 3 at 11:57, 16 September 2008.

The next scheduled CAS Level 3 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. tomorrow in the State EOC Operations Room.

DECLARATIONS

County: Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Knox, Licking, Madison, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Preble, Seneca, Stark, Tuscarawas and Warren.

WEATHER

Weather Summary

The high wind event that occurred on Sunday, September 14th was caused by a combination of the remnants of Hurricane Ike interacting with a cold front moving through the region. The low pressure system which was the remnants of Ike actually increased in intensity as it interacted with the front. The forward speed of movement of the low pressure system was around 65 mph. This low pressure system moved from southeast Missouri Sunday morning to Indianapolis, to near Toledo by Sunday night and then to a position near Montreal, Canada before dissipating. This unusual increase in intensity and fast forward motion of the system produced estimated wind gusts in the range of 55 to 75 mph across Ohio.

The highest winds persisted from about 1 p.m. to about 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 14. The persistence of the higher wind gusts over a period of hours contributed to the widespread wind damage to trees and power lines and wind damage of unknown severity to an unknown number of structures.

General Forecast

More sunshine is in the forecast for today with temperatures continuing to warm up. Highs will be from the mid 60's to the low 70's statewide. Over the next few days, highs will be comfortable in the 70's with plenty of sunshine and blue skies.

A dry pattern will continue with high pressure weakening slightly on Wednesday before being reinforced by another high on Thursday and Friday. A short wave passing through the eastern Great Lakes on Wednesday night will have little effect on our weather. High temperatures will be boosted to near normal under abundant sunshine with daytime highs rising to the middle and upper 70s. Overnight lows will fall into the 50s in most locations, especially in rural areas.

STATE LEVEL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACTIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

The Department of Transportation continues multiple highway debris clearance missions statewide. Road conditions are improving and signal outages continue to be restored. ODOT is currently working on two debris clearing missions in Greene County. They expect to complete these missions within 24 hours. Eleven roads remain in Closed status while one is in Restricted status. For details on roadway closures see www.buckeyetraffic.org.

ESF 3 – Engineering and Public Works

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

ODNR has nothing significant to report at this time.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Public Water Supply:

EPA Staff provided a list of Public Water Supplies operating on backup generator power and reported that arrangements for fuel re-supply are in place at facilities running on generators. They do not anticipate any fuel shortage problems at this time. EPA Staff will continue to conduct outreach to public water systems, including smaller community water systems serving mobile home parks which may be experiencing issues. EPA will coordinate with ESF-7 on requests for generators for public water system facilities.

In Tuscarawas County, power was restored to the Twin City Public Water System last night; however, staff identified that the Baltic Public Water System was without power and had no backup supply. Staff is coordinating with Baltic representatives at this time, and more information will be provided when available.

Wastewater:

Staff members are surveying sewage treatment facilities and assessing problems with loss of power to plants and pump stations. They are coordinating with ODNR on potential impacts from overflows and bypasses.

Debris:

All southwest landfills have power or backup for their scales and are open, but one transfer facility in Hamilton County was closed with damage to their roof and electrical system. EPA Staff is working with Clark County on their staging area for debris, and reaching out elsewhere to provide technical assistance on debris as needed.

ESF 4 – Firefighting

Ohio Department of Commerce (ODC)

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal has nothing significant to report.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC)

The OCSC staff has been coordinating ESF 6 activities from the EOC.

Humanitarian Efforts:

The Joint Information Center notified ESF-6 about a phone conversation they received from a Geauga County resident. The resident was concerned that a huge tree leaning on another tree would fall and destroy her home. She called both her insurance company and local officials. She was told they are unable to help until there is actual damage. ESF 6 representatives forwarded information to Ohio VOAD. VOAD representatives Doug Dawson and Jim Ditzler are pursuing this case. They know people in the area and will see if they can have some volunteers help her.

A Fairfield County resident called Ohio EMA to request ice. The resident is disabled and cannot afford to purchase ice. This request was shared with Ohio VOAD who is acting on this matter.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

In Fairfield County, CERT volunteers are supporting shelter operations. CERT volunteers in Knox County are supporting comfort stations for citizens affected by the storms.

Ohio Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

All MRC Unit Coordinators were notified about EOC activities and put on standby. In Clark County, the MRC Coordinator activated volunteers to help with damage assessment and tetanus boosters for injuries. They are directing people to check with their physician to see if a booster shot is needed. Assistance is being coordinated through local EMAs. In the Cincinnati / Tristate area, MRC volunteers are activated to support local shelter operations. In Delaware County, the Red Cross and the Council for Older Adults are providing food to senior citizens. In Knox County, four comfort stations are operated by the Red Cross and CERT volunteers.

Salvation Army

According to Major Richard Gulley, power was restored to the Salvation Army high rise facility in Cincinnati.

Ohio Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Volunteers are ready to assist as unmet needs are identified. They can assist with debris removal, feeding or other volunteer tasks. VOAD is also surveying food banks for their capacity in the event the return of power is delayed. In addition, Adventist Community Services can assist with food distribution.

Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)

Community mental health boards are contacting and working with local emergency management agencies and other community responders. They are also providing information on managing stressors in disasters that can be distributed to community members. A summary of behavioral health centers is provided below:

Appalachian Behavioral Health Cambridge Campus - There was some minor wind damage to the Cambridge Campus.

Liberty Manor (a 16-bed group home community support network) operating to support the Muskingum & Belmont County area, is without power.

Appalachian Behavioral Health -Athens Campus has no major concerns, or staffing issues.

Heartland Behavioral Health -Massillon Ohio – There was no power outage.

Northcoast Behavioral Health – Toledo Campus. No outages to report.

Northcoast Behavioral Health - Cleveland campus has some leakage to part of the roof over the old cafeteria due to a piece of metal being ripped off the old shelter and damaging the roof.

Northcoast Behavioral Health - Northfield campus is without power. The City of Northfield indicated that they are their highest priority in power restoration. Two community support residential programs had power restored at Madison House and Cato House.

Summit Behavioral Health Cincinnati – there is an outage at Summit. It may be three or four days before power is restored. They have implemented their back-up generators and everything on the units is fully functional.

Twin Valley Behavioral Health Columbus was without power and on emergency generators from 5pm – 9pm Sunday, Sept 14. They are in good shape today.

The Dayton Campus is on back-up generator today with two staff on site and no major concerns to report. They are working with fuel companies to refill generators if needed.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

ODJFS is reaching out to clients in Logan County to re-issue food stamps.

Ohio Department of Insurance

ODI is continuing outreach efforts concerning Ohioans starting the claims process and being vigilant against contractor fraud. The consumer services hotline is currently experiencing no increases in call volume, but expect the volume to increase next week. Based on call volume, ODI will decide whether or not to extend the call center hours. The Ohio Insurance Institute, the Department's Property and Casualty partner through the Ohio Insurance Disaster Coalition, report that they will not have any disaster dollar amounts until ten days at the very earliest due to the immense amount of claims being filed. Insurance agents have reported that they have never had a disaster of this size and it will take some time to get estimates to the Department. ODI contacted the insurance companies about the situation through a memorandum. Grange, Motorists, Allstate report that 14,400 claims have been filed in the first day.

Ohio Department of Aging report to OCSC

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been contacting their consumers who are most at risk. Some of the Area Agencies on Aging have not reported receiving requests for assistance related to the power outage. Others have received requests for meals. Meal providers that have no power are delivering shelf-stable meals, and some are delivering meals and water to people who normally have meals at congregate sites without power. The AAAs in Cincinnati and Columbus have requested a total of 20,200 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) to meet anticipated needs as older people run out of food while they wait for power to be restored. ODA will assist with the arrangements for getting the meals to these AAAs. It is possible they may receive additional requests.

Ohio Department of Development - Office of Community Services

Many local agencies, especially those who operate Head Start programs, have back-up generators for use. It does not appear at this time that clients are going to the Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in large numbers for assistance.

Ohio Department of Development - Office of Housing and Community Partnerships

On the housing side, this organization is in conversation with U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) with regard to whether an area problem exists as a result of the storm that would be eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding. HUD funds are not utilized to assist individual households, but might be usable, for example, to fund repairs to a bridge or other infrastructure damaged or wiped out by the strong winds. Approximately 43% of AEP's customers were without power yesterday and serve 65 counties. After the State Declaration, the organization may be in a position to request funds for eligible activities impacted by the winds.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

DAS continues to coordinate information regarding numerous requests for generators and identify potential providers:

In Montgomery County, the Kettering Youth Facility requested a 125-kilowatt generator. One was located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, however, a release is required from FEMA. The County located a 100-kilowatt generator in Columbus and had the unit sent to Kettering.

Greene County EMA requested three 150-kilowatt generators. DAS is coordinating with the Ohio National Guard for three units. The Guard is confirming needs with Greene County at this time and will release the appropriate number today.

FEMA advised that they have a deployment package of 50 generators, and are loading them onto truck pending a state declaration and request. DAS is confirming needs with Ohio EMA County Liaisons deployed to Ohio counties.

DAS is coordinating water needs for Clark County. The County requested 7,500 gallons, but reduced the request to 5,000 gallons. A local resource, Aqua Falls, has 2,700 gallons ready at this time. This has been conveyed to the County.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

Power was restored at the Ohio Department of Health laboratory. There are no more issues on the Department of Agriculture campus.

The Ohio Department of Health volunteer coordinator made contact with the Regional Hospital Coordinators and reports the following information:

The Northwest and Southeast Regions report no issues.

The Central Region reports that all hospitals are operational; some are on back-up power but are doing well. The Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS) representatives are in the Franklin County EOC and they are planning with community partners if hospitals begin to be inundated with special needs patients (i.e. oxygen-dependent or insulin-dependent whose insulin expired because of lack of refrigeration, etc.). A private dialysis center at Kidney Services East in Columbus, Ohio is providing care for patients that are out of power.

The West Central Region reports that Dayton Heart Hospital is the only hospital still operating on a back-up generator. Area hospitals have reached critical capacity for patients with oxygen needs and others that are presenting to the emergency departments. A Red Cross emergency shelter has been established at the Masonic Temple on Riverview Avenue in Dayton for basic necessities and an oxygen station to manage the increase in non-acute patients requesting oxygen assistance.

The Southwest Region reports that power outages have made it difficult to obtain information, however, efforts continue to contact hospitals.

ESF 10 – Hazardous Materials

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA received a few more reports of releases from pole-mounted electrical transformers and staff will respond as appropriate.

ESF 11 – Agriculture

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Division of Food Safety:

The Food Safety Division is surveying the local health departments to assess the number of grocery stores without power. Perishable food products held without refrigeration will need to be embargoed and placed in landfills.

Livestock Environmental Permitting Program:

Inspectors continue to check the status of remaining facilities and reported minor damage was sustained to the shutters on ventilation units that house large livestock and poultry.

Division of Meat Inspection:

A number of meat inspection establishments are using backup generators. Some are in urgent need of assistance in trying to locate back up generators or refrigeration capabilities such as truck or trailers.

Dairy Division

Tamarack Dairy's power was restored early this morning and everything is back on line. They lost some yogurt that was in the fermentation process, but this will be the only product destroyed. All equipment has been cleaned and they are now receiving milk again. They will re-pasteurize some cream just to be safe. In addition, Guggisberg Cheese is still without power, but they have portable generators and can focus on cooling at different spots such as tanks, cooler, and culture rooms. Also, their aging room was kept at the perfect temperature for aging cheese.

Plant Industry Division

Nothing out of the ordinary to report as far as our Plant Industry licensees are concerned. There is wide-spread crop damage especially to corn fields and damage assessments continue. It is too late in the growing season to worry about soybean rust being blown into Ohio as plants are mature.

No FSA Damage Reports or County Extension information has been reported to date. ODA is working with the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) and OSU Extension Service for crop and agribusiness damage reports.

ESF 12 – Energy

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Statewide Power Outages Total: 1,383,709

American Electric Power of Ohio

AEP is bringing crews from Kentucky and West Virginia to assist in restoration efforts. The company is experiencing the most difficulty in restoring power to Malvern, Ohio in the northwest part of Carroll County. AEP continues to have 447,520 customers without power across its service territory.

Dayton Power & Light

DP&L has 150,000 customers remaining without power. Last night, the company was able to restore 25,000. It is estimated that 95% of the outages will be restored by this weekend. The company is gathering assistance crews from Indiana.

Duke Power

Duke continues to have 469,987 customers without power, compromising 6,600 cases. The company is examining its outage data to advise those areas which may need additional state assistance. Crews are coming from the Carolinas to assist in restoration efforts.

First Energy

FirstEnergy is experiencing 277,202 outages in its service territory. The company is analyzing its outages to determine any widespread geographic outages which may require assistance. Additional crews are coming from Michigan, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to assist in restoration efforts.

Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives (OREC)

OREC restored 39,000 customers. OREC does not believe that any of their service territories will require additional state assistance. The Cooperatives were provided additional restoration crews from Michigan and Illinois.

Petroleum

A conference call was held with representatives from the Ohio Petroleum Council and the Ohio Petroleum Marketers Association. There are open terminals in the Toledo, Cleveland, and Akron markets with no significant supply issues. In the Columbus Market, Marathon is attempting to restore power to the west Columbus Terminal. Both the Marathon and Sunoco East Terminals have been out of service over the past few days. Suppliers have had to go to Dayton or Canton to obtain product. With regard to Dayton and Cincinnati, there are only four terminals open. Suppliers are experiencing long lines to fill tankers for delivery. As a result of these choke points within southwest Ohio, approximately 50% of the stations are out of fuel or non-operational. It is important to note that there is no shortage of petroleum in Ohio. It is a matter of distributing the product to the end-point stations.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP)

OSHP Posts have reported road closures, but no major incidents at this time.

Ohio Homeland Security (OHS)

OHS has nothing significant to report.

COUNTY IMPACTS

The following county reports are current as of 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2008.

County declarations include Butler, Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Columbiana, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Knox, Licking, Madison, Montgomery, Morrow, Perry, Preble, Seneca, Stark, Tuscarawas and Warren Counties.

Greene County has declared a Sheriff's Emergency Level II. Butler County has declared a Sheriff's Emergency Level I. Holmes and Clark Counties no longer have their Sheriff's Emergency Levels in effect.

Guernsey County reports that 3,000 to 5,000 people were affected by the storms. There are no road closures, however, road crews continue working to clear debris. Crews estimate that this task may take one to two weeks to complete. Approximately 2,500 customers are without power. The county water department is establishing two sites where residents can get drinking water if their well pumps are inoperable due to lack of power.

Wood County reports that Bell Road at U.S. Route 42 is now open for vehicle traffic. Road closures from the previous day remain closed today. They are waiting for power companies to cut power lines out of the trees that are in the roadways, then push the trees out to the side for cutting and removal.

In Lawrence County, AEP reported to the county EMA customers served from AEP Chesapeake and Ironton Offices are back on line. Some customers in Lawrence County served from Wellston in Jackson County office may still be out of service, but this would be a very small number.

BRIEFING AND SITUATION REPORT DATA

Crisis Action System (CAS) Level 3 Briefing: The next CAS 3 briefing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The State EOC Assessment Room staff will continue to monitor the situation in Ohio until conditions improve.

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