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Purpose: This After-Action Report documents significant actions, impacts, sustained practices, and observations associated with the incident. It is intended to support organizational learning, planning, training, and future preparedness.

# 00067 – 20260811 ENHANCED Risk for Damaging Winds

10-12 August 2026 | Published Date: 13 August 2026

## Summary

Clinton County Emergency Management Agency entered an Enhanced Monitoring posture beginning August 10, 2026, in response to an increasing threat for multiple rounds of severe thunderstorms, damaging straight-line winds, and flash flooding. By the morning of August 11, National Weather Service (NWS) Wilmington assessed the damaging-wind threat as Significant, with high confidence in severe storms and a primary afternoon/evening threat window. Despite significant impacts elsewhere in Ohio and neighboring counties, Clinton County experienced comparatively limited storm damage. Post-event analysis by the National Weather Service, citing the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), subsequently identified the larger August 11 storm system as a preliminary derecho, with subsequent analysis extending the preliminary path through central Indiana into southeastern Ohio and eastern Kentucky.

The most significant local impact involved commercial electrical service. Commercial power outages peaked at 2,848 customers, with the majority of the impact concentrated in the New Vienna area, temporarily resulting in a Degraded Energy Lifeline assessment. Cascading impacts included traffic-control disruptions requiring temporary stop signs in New Vienna and loss of commercial power at the New Vienna MARCS site, which continued operating on backup power without loss of radio communications. Other localized impacts included high water in Sabina and minor storm damage reports.

Overall EMA monitoring, coordination, response, and mutual-aid performance is assessed at 8.5/10. Sustained practices included redundant weather and situational-awareness monitoring, effective communication with local officials and the public, and regional mutual-aid support. Clinton County subsequently assisted Highland County with damage assessment, working alongside neighboring emergency-management partners. During the Highland County assignment, the Clinton County EMA survey team documented preliminary classifications of 0 Destroyed, 1 Major, 2 Minor, and 7 Affected structures.

Public alerting is separately assessed at 7/10 due to delayed, missing, or difficult-to-verify Clinton County Emergency Alerts (CCEA)/Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS) notifications during the event. Available records establish the performance issue but do not establish its technical cause. InspironLogistics subsequently advised Clinton County EMA

that its preliminary review identified apparent latency within the downstream messaging aggregator's network. InspironLogistics further advised that the issue had been escalated to specific wireless carriers for additional review. As of publication of this AAR, the final technical cause and any carrier-specific findings remain pending.

## Incident Overview and Milestones

### Incident Overview

- Incident: **00067 – 20260811 ENHANCED Risk for Damaging Winds**
- Area: Clinton County, Ohio, with follow-on mutual-aid support to Highland County.
- Incident Type: **Severe weather / enhanced monitoring.**
- Lead Organization: **Clinton County Emergency Management Agency.**
- Major Supporting Organizations: National Weather Service Wilmington, Storm Prediction Center, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Clinton County jurisdictions and public-safety partners, utility providers, Ohio EMA (SW liaisons), Highland County EMA, Fayette County EMA, and other Southwest Region emergency-management partners.
- Overall Outcome: Significant severe-weather potential affected the region, but Clinton County sustained limited localized damage and no documented unmet resource needs. EMA transitioned from enhanced monitoring into follow-on mutual-aid damage-assessment support.
- Post-Event Characterization: National Weather Service Northern Indiana reported that the Storm Prediction Center preliminarily classified the August 11 mesoscale convective system as a derecho. Subsequent SPC analysis extended the preliminary path through central Indiana into southeastern Ohio and eastern Kentucky. This regional classification provides context for the significant damaging-wind threat monitored by Clinton County but does not change the comparatively limited impacts documented within the county.

### Milestone Timeline

- **8 Aug., 1630:** First Public Heads-Up Issued. Clinton County EMA advised the public of an increasing severe-weather threat through August 11. At that time, the higher severe-weather concern was expected Sunday night into Monday, with damaging straight-line winds the primary threat; heavy-rain and flash-flooding concerns were expected to increase Tuesday. The forecast remained subject to change.
- **10 Aug., 1442:** Enhanced Monitoring initiated. A D4H incident was established to support monitoring, coordination, public information, and potential damage assessment.
- **10 Aug., afternoon:** Forecast confidence increased; Clinton County was placed within an Enhanced Risk for August 11 with damaging straight-line winds identified as the primary hazard and flooding as a significant secondary concern.
- **11 Aug., 0049:** NWS Wilmington issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning affecting northeastern Clinton County. The associated WENS notification became the first documented indication of inconsistent alert delivery during the event.
- **11 Aug., 0450:** NWS Wilmington identified a primary 1500–2100 severe-weather window, with intense damaging winds and flash flooding as principal concerns.
- **11 Aug., morning:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch #564 covered Clinton County as an organized thunderstorm line moved through the region; the watch was cancelled at 1132.
- **11 Aug., 1235–1244:** Severe Thunderstorm Watch #567 was issued for the expected second round. At 1301, EMA provided Mayors and Commissioners a focused Round 2 briefing and requested jurisdictional impact reporting.

- **11 Aug., 1442:** NWS issued another Severe Thunderstorm Warning affecting northeastern Clinton County for 60 mph winds. Because automated WENS delivery could not be confirmed, EMA manually initiated an additional notification approximately four minutes later.
- **11 Aug., 1603:** NWS Wilmington issued a Flash Flood Warning for Warren and Clinton Counties through 1903.
- **11 Aug., late afternoon/evening:** County power impacts increased sharply; localized high water, traffic-control impacts, and backup-power operations at the New Vienna MARCS site were monitored. Watch #567 was cancelled at 1900.
- **11 Aug., 1837–2137:** NWS Wilmington reported a communications issue affecting product transmission. EMA maintained weather monitoring through alternate established sources until normal NWS operations were restored.
- **11 Aug., 2200:** Clinton County EMA ended Enhanced Monitoring following the primary local severe-weather response period.
- **12 Aug., morning–evening:** Clinton County EMA transitioned to mutual-aid damage-assessment support for Highland County. All incident-related Clinton County EMA operations were terminated that evening.

## Operational Impacts and Response Actions

### Community Lifeline Impacts

- **Energy:** Commercial outages increased substantially during the late afternoon, peaking at 2,848 customers, with the majority of the impact concentrated in the New Vienna area. The Energy Lifeline was temporarily assessed as Degraded while restoration and cascading impacts to traffic control and communications were monitored.
- **Communications:** The New Vienna MARCS site lost commercial power and operated on backup power. No loss of MARCS communications was reported, and normal status was restored later that evening.
- **Transportation:** Localized impacts included high water in Sabina and traffic-control disruptions associated with commercial power outages. Temporary stop signs were observed in New Vienna during the morning of August 12 as the area continued recovering from the outage.
- **Safety and Security:** Available Clinton County reports reflected limited localized storm damage rather than widespread structural impacts. No unmet local response-resource requirement was documented.

### Incident Coordination and Public Information

- EMA continuously updated the D4H Situation Report, weather products, Lifeline information, public-facing incident information, utility status, and jurisdictional impact information.
- Mayors, Commissioners, public-safety partners, and other stakeholders received pre-event information, focused afternoon threat information, and an end-of-day summary.
- Public information emphasized damaging straight-line winds rather than focusing solely on tornadoes and encouraged residents to maintain multiple methods of receiving warnings.
- Resident and jurisdictional damage information was collected through established reporting methods and forwarded to NWS when appropriate.

### Mutual Aid and Regional Support

- Clinton County participated in Southwest Region information-sharing and weather-monitoring coordination during the developing event.
- On August 12, Clinton County EMA deployed to Highland County to assist with rapid damage assessment in the Mowrystown/Sardinia area.

- Field work documented trees and limbs affecting residences, roof and siding damage, downed lines, utility impacts, and locations where debris or electrical hazards limited assessment.
- Clinton County and Fayette County EMA support demonstrated effective neighboring-county mutual aid while Clinton County remained available for its own local needs.

## Performance Findings

### Sustained Practices

#### **Situational Awareness and Weather Monitoring – Met**

- EMA used multiple independent information sources, including NWS/SPC products, NWS Chat, NOAA Weather Radio, radar and decision-support platforms including RadarOmega, WeatherWise, and DTN WeatherSentry, Pivotal Weather model guidance, utility reporting through PowerOutage.us, AES Ohio, Duke Energy Ohio, and South Central Power, D4H, jurisdictional information, and resident SPOT reports.
- This redundancy maintained situational awareness when NWS Wilmington experienced a temporary product-transmission interruption.
- Continue: Multi-source monitoring and redundant warning verification practices.

#### **Partner and Public Information Coordination – Met**

- Local leaders received advance notice, changing threat information, impact-reporting requests, and an end-of-day situation summary. Public messaging was updated as forecast confidence and conditions changed.
- Timely communication supported a common countywide operating picture despite relatively limited local impacts.
- Continue: Direct jurisdictional communication combined with D4H and public-facing information channels.

#### **Mutual Aid and Regional Coordination – Met**

- Clinton County supported regional information sharing during the weather event and provided follow-on damage-assessment assistance to Highland County.
- Mutual aid added assessment capacity for a more heavily affected neighboring county while Clinton County retained the ability to meet local needs.
- Continue: Neighboring-county damage-assessment and regional coordination practices.

### Observations

#### **CCEA/WENS Alert Delivery and Verification – Partially Met**

- Available records document missing, significantly delayed, or difficult-to-verify WENS notifications. InspironLogistics subsequently advised that its preliminary review identified apparent latency within the messaging aggregator's network and that the issue had been escalated to specific carriers for additional review. As of publication of this AAR, the final technical cause and any carrier-specific findings remain pending.
- Delayed or stale emergency notifications may no longer correspond to current conditions, can complicate EMA decision-making during active weather, and can reduce public confidence in county alerts.
- Recommendation: Mass-notification system review.

#### **Prepared WENS Weather Alert Detail – Partially Met**

- Available WENS prepared-weather messages did not provide the complete underlying NWS warning text, issuance and expiration information, or comparable product detail, requiring recipients to use a general NWS link for additional information.

- Limited product detail becomes more important when an alert is delayed because recipients and EMA personnel need to determine quickly whether the message remains current and applicable.
- Recommendation: **Public-information and alert-configuration review.**

## Records and Source Limitations

- Official Record: Paper records will be maintained in Clinton County EMA files. Electronic records will be retained on the local T:/ drive network.
- Primary records reviewed: D4H Log of Events and SITREP; NWS Wilmington briefings and warnings; SPC watches and mesoscale discussions; NWS Northern Indiana post-event derecho summary; Ohio EMA Partner Reports and State EOC SITREPs; local leadership and InspironLogistics correspondence; public information records; WENS alert records; Clinton County damage reports; Highland County street sheets; and the ICS-214 documenting mutual-aid damage assessment.
- D4H remains an important operational source but is not identified as the final archival location.
- Clinton County EMA ended Enhanced Monitoring at 2200 on August 11. Operations transitioned to mutual-aid support the following morning, with Clinton County EMA assisting Highland County with damage assessment on August 12. All incident-related EMA operations were terminated that evening.
- Final carrier-specific findings were not available as of publication; the vendor's technical assessment of the WENS alert delays therefore remains preliminary.
- Post-event derecho classification remains preliminary. NWS Northern Indiana notes that official 2026 derecho determinations will be confirmed after 2026 storm data are finalized in 2027. Accordingly, this AAR uses "preliminary derecho" when referring to the regional storm classification.
- Statewide impacts were reviewed for situational context but were not used to characterize Clinton County's local level of damage or response performance.