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Prepared by: Clinton County EMA

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Purpose: This After-Action Report documents significant actions, impacts, sustained practices, and observations associated with the Clinton County enhanced-monitoring ops conducted from 31 Aug thru 6 Sept 2026, to support organizational learning, planning, training, and future preparedness.

00068 – 2026903 EXTREME HEAT

3-5 September 2026 | Published Date: 7 September 2026

Summary

Clinton County Emergency Management Agency conducted enhanced monitoring from August 31 through September 6, 2026, for hazardous heat, severe-weather potential, regional electric-grid conditions, outdoor events, and several concurrent incidents. The operation did not require Emergency Operations Center activation, countywide protective actions, or significant resource coordination. Most EMA activity involved monitoring changing conditions, sharing information, connecting partner organizations, and documenting localized impacts.

Major impacts included severe weather that brought down old trees and damaged several tents at the Nowhere Farm Festival, localized AES Ohio electrical outages, and a power outage that required the City of Wilmington's Caesar Creek water-intake facility to operate on generator power. No serious festival injuries, interruption of public water service, countywide Lifeline failure, or heat-related medical impact was documented. A separate gasoline release occurred at a solar-construction site. Initial reports estimated a possible 700-gallon release, while a later post-incident estimate placed the amount at approximately 100 gallons. The spill remained on site, was contained, and did not affect a waterway.

Overall performance was rated 7 of 10 and considered average. Normal EMA functions continued despite multiple unrelated incidents occurring simultaneously. Effective practices included providing advance weather information to festival organizers before each storm period and maintaining established coordination with Ohio EMA and Ohio EPA. Mobile systems also allowed EMA to continue monitoring and communicating while away from computer access.

The primary observations concern AES weekend communications and incident-record completion. EMA had difficulty reaching AES personnel, and AES did not provide timely confirmation of the outage cause or actual restoration. In addition, portions of the response remain documented only in text-message conversations. These records should be preserved and incorporated into the official incident file.

Incident Overview and Milestones

Incident Overview

- Incident: **00068 – 2026903 Extreme Heat**
- Operational period: **August 31, 2026, at 1406 hours through September 6, 2026, at 1000 hours**
- Area affected: Clinton County, Ohio, with several localized incidents and monitored facilities
- Incident type: **Multi-hazard enhanced monitoring and information coordination**

- Lead organization: **Clinton County Emergency Management Agency**
- Supporting organizations included the **National Weather Service Wilmington Forecast Office, Ohio EMA, Ohio EPA, AES Ohio, PJM Interconnection, City of Wilmington Water Department, local public-safety agencies, event organizers, and private-sector representatives.**
- Final status: **Monitoring concluded with localized incidents stabilized or restored and no continuing countywide impact identified.**

Milestone Timeline

- **August 31:** EMA began monitoring a National Weather Service Heat Advisory and a PJM Hot Weather Alert associated with elevated temperatures and increased electrical demand.
- **September 2–3:** Forecasts expanded to include strong or severe thunderstorms, primarily involving damaging winds, isolated hail, and possible localized flooding. EMA issued public information and continued monitoring weather and electric-grid conditions.
- **September 3:** Ohio EMA entered Assessment and Monitoring for the forecast severe weather. PJM operated under elevated grid procedures, but no public conservation request, voltage reduction, load-shed directive, or direct Clinton County impact was identified.
- **September 3:** EMA and the Local Emergency Planning Committee coordinated notifications regarding a gasoline release at a solar-construction site. Ohio EPA reported the release contained on site and found the cleanup approach acceptable.
- **September 4:** EMA shared updated weather information with Nowhere Farm Festival contacts before forecast storm periods. At 1617 hours, the National Weather Service provided direct notice of inbound winds exceeding 40 miles per hour, which EMA immediately relayed to festival organizers.
- **September 4:** Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued for multiple Clinton County locations. Festival organizers reported damage to several tents and old trees, but no serious injuries.
- **September 4:** An AES Ohio alert reported 154 customers without power. The associated outage was reported restored by 2205 hours.
- **September 5:** The City of Wilmington reported that its Caesar Creek water intake was operating on generator power following a storm-related electrical outage. EMA coordinated with city, state, and utility contacts. Normal power was reported restored by 1535 hours.
- **September 5:** EMA continued mobile weather and special-event monitoring. The National Weather Service experienced a temporary nationwide data-system outage, which was resolved without a documented local operational impact.
- **September 6:** No additional hazards were forecast, and EMA terminated the incident channel at 1000 hours.

Operational Impacts and Response Actions

Community Lifeline Impacts

- Energy remained operational with localized impacts. PJM issued regional alerts and transmission warnings, but no customer-disconnection directive or direct Clinton County grid emergency was identified.
- AES Ohio outage alerts documented localized customer impacts on September 4 and September 5.
- Water Systems remained operational. The Wilmington water intake used generator power until normal electrical service was restored. No loss of water production, pressure, treatment capability, or public service reported.
- Hazardous Materials remained under monitoring following the Blattner gasoline release. Initial reporting estimated up to 700 gallons, while later reconciliation using fuel-use records, generator operating time, tank capacity, and remaining fuel produced an estimate of approximately 100 gallons.

- The gasoline release was secured on site. No fire, injury, evacuation, road closure, off-site release, or waterway impact was reported.
- Safety and Security remained operational. The principal documented storm impact involved damaged festival tents and fallen or broken trees. No serious injuries were reported.

Incident Coordination and Public Information

- EMA monitored National Weather Service briefings, iNWS alerts, lightning information, outage reports, PJM emergency messages, special-event conditions, and partner reports.
- Festival organizers received advance information before each forecast storm period, allowing protective actions to be taken by organizers and attendees.
- EMA published public information addressing hazardous heat, severe-weather potential, power-grid awareness, outage preparedness, and safe generator use.
- Coordination with Ohio EMA and Ohio EPA proceeded through established working relationships and routine contact methods.
- From Friday through Sunday morning, much of the response was conducted while EMA was mobile. During certain daytime periods, EMA did not have computer access, and most monitoring and communications were completed by smartphone.

Stabilization and Demobilization

- Festival damage was documented through organizer reports and photographs. No request for additional EMA assistance was recorded.
- The water-intake facility returned to normal electrical service on September 5.
- The National Weather Service data outage was resolved the same day it was reported.
- EMA secured from enhanced monitoring after the final storm period and terminated the incident on September 6.

Performance Findings

Sustained Practices

Special-Event Weather Coordination – Met

- EMA provided festival organizers advance warning before each storm system, including direct notice approximately 30 minutes before winds exceeding 40 miles per hour were expected to arrive.
- The warnings supported protective action by organizers and attendees. No serious injuries were reported despite damage to old trees and several tents.
- Sustain direct weather coordination with outdoor-event organizers.

State Partner Coordination – Met

- EMA coordinated effectively with Ohio EMA and EPA during the water-intake and hazardous-materials incidents.
- Established professional relationships supported rapid information exchange and reduced the need to establish new contacts during the incidents.
- Sustain routine contact and coordination with state partners.

Mobile Operational Continuity – Met

- EMA maintained weather monitoring, notifications, partner coordination, and situational awareness while mobile and without computer access during portions of the operational period.
- Smartphone access allowed essential functions to continue while EMA personnel attended community events and addressed concurrent incidents.
- Sustain mobile access to D4H, weather information, mapping, partner contacts, and communication systems.

Observations

AES Weekend Communication and Closeout – Partially Met

- EMA experienced difficulty reaching AES personnel during the weekend outage affecting the Wilmington water intake.
- AES did not provide definitive follow-up identifying the outage cause or confirming the actual restoration time. A local contact reported restoration approximately 2.5 hours before an AES representative later advised when power should be restored.
- The absence of timely closeout information limited EMA's ability to maintain a verified Lifeline status and provide partners with an accurate restoration report.
- Recommendation: Coordination review.

Incident-Record Completion – Partially Met

- Some activities remain documented only in text-message conversations because EMA lacked computer access during portions of the response.
- D4H posting times sometimes reflect when an entry was made rather than when the documented action occurred. Other unresolved items include inconsistent AES outage counts, the initial and revised Blattner spill estimates, and the absence of a final festival damage assessment.
- Preserving and incorporating relevant text conversations is necessary to complete the incident record and support future review.
- Recommendation: Documentation practice.

Records and Source Limitations

- The official record will be maintained in D4H, on the EMA drive, and in EMA physical files. All records involving the Blattner release must be preserved.
- Sources reviewed included the D4H Situation Report, Log of Events, Lifeline and special-event records, National Weather Service briefings, iNWS screenshots, PJM information, the National Response Center report, event photographs, and associated maps.
- The initial Blattner estimate of approximately 700 gallons appears in D4H and the National Response Center report. The later approximately 100-gallon estimate was provided by EMA following post-incident reconciliation and was not contained in the reviewed exported records.
- Local documentation identifies Jefferson Township Fire as responding to the spill, while the National Response Center report identifies Martinsville Fire. The difference did not affect the documented containment outcome.
- The AES Lifeline record is titled "242 AES Outages," while the log records alerts involving 154 customers on September 4 and 223 customers on September 5. The basis for the 242 figure is not documented.
- No separate after-action statements were received from AES, festival management, the City of Wilmington Water Department, Ohio EPA, or other partner organizations.
- Relevant text-message conversations should be retained with the official record. Exact action times stated within message content or D4H narratives should control when they differ from entry-posting times.
- Personal telephone numbers, exact private-site coordinates, detailed infrastructure information, and restricted school-safety bulletin content have been omitted from this UNRESTRICTED report.