

Note: Corrections based upon new information provided by IC on the evening of 4 March 2026. [Updates noted in blue.](#)

SPOT REPORT

Incident/Situation: Clarksville Residential Structure Fire 20260303

Location: Village of Clarksville, Ohio (Clinton County)

Lat/Long: 39.4020, -83.9829

Nearest Address: 143 W. Main Street, Clarksville, Ohio

Report Date/Time: 20260303 1500

Report Type: Update

STATUS

- Fire suppressed; recovery operations ongoing
- Fatality count confirmed; no additional missing persons
- Surviving adult transferred to higher level of care

IMPACTS (By Lifeline)

Safety and Security:

- Total victims: 7
- 6 deceased (1 adult female, 1 infant, 4 children total)
- No additional missing persons

Health and Medical:

- 1 adult male transported to Clinton Regional Hospital at 20260303 0651
- Subsequently transferred to Miami Valley Hospital for higher level of care
- [8 firefighters injured during suppression operations](#)
- [Injury types included 6 electrical shock exposures and 2 burn injuries](#)
- [4 firefighters transported to hospital for evaluation and released with minor injuries](#)

Food, Hydration, Shelter:

- Primary residence destroyed
- Displacement of surviving victim

Hazardous Materials:

- Structural instability requiring floor stabilization
- Recovery operations ongoing within compromised structure

ACTIONS TAKEN

- Fire suppression completed
- Survivor transported to CRH at 0651 hours and later transferred to Miami Valley Hospital

- Pediatric body bags requested from Highland County EMA
- USAR conducting floor stabilization
- Privacy tents established for recovery, packaging, and removal operations
- BOX-14 deployed and supporting first responders

RESOURCES

Resources Used:

- Fire District 1 – Suppression and overhaul operations
- Fire District 3 – Mutual aid fire response
- [EMS from District 6 – Mutual aid response](#)
- Fire District 8-1 – Mutual aid response
- Fire District 8-2 – Mutual aid response
- Warren County fire departments – Mutual aid support
- Urban Search & Rescue – Structural stabilization operations
- BOX-14 – First responder rehabilitation and support

Resources Requested:

- Clinton County EMA – Privacy tents for recovery operations
- Highland County EMA – Pediatric body bags (quantity as needed for 5 pediatric fatalities)

ESTIMATED TIME TO STATUS CHANGE

- Approximately 20260303 1600 (anticipated completion of recovery operations)

COMMENTS / ANALYST NOTE

- Fatality count confirmed at six deceased
- No additional missing persons
- Significant community impact expected due to multiple pediatric fatalities
- High media interest anticipated
- Survivor condition unknown following transfer

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Prepared by: **Clinton County EMA**

Publish Date: **5 March 2026**

Title: **After-Action Report: Clarksville Residential Structure Fire 20260303**

Purpose: The purpose of this After-Action Report (AAR) is to document the Public Information Officer (PIO) support mission requested of Clinton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) during the 3 March 2026 residential structure fire in the Village of Clarksville, Clinton County, Ohio. The report summarizes EMA's public information activities, coordination with incident command and partner agencies, media engagement, and operational challenges encountered while supporting information management during a high-profile incident. It identifies strengths, areas for improvement, and recommended actions to enhance future public information operations and interagency coordination. This report does not assign fault or determine the cause of the fire; investigative findings remain the responsibility of the appropriate investigative authorities.

After-Action Report: Clarksville Residential Structure Fire 20260303

Incident Date: **3 March 2026**

Location: **143 W. Main Street, Clarksville, Ohio**

Coordinates: **39.4020, -83.9829**

Vehicle: 2024 Ford Explorer PIU

VIN: IFM5K8AB3RGA83454

Milage Start: 4432.9

Milage End: 4459.3

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1. Incident Overview

On the morning of 3 March 2026, a residential structure fire occurred in the Village of Clarksville, Clinton County, Ohio, resulting in six fatalities and one survivor. The deceased included one adult female, one infant, and four young children. One adult male survivor was located during suppression operations and transported for medical treatment.

Fire suppression and rescue operations were conducted by Clinton County fire districts with mutual aid support from Warren County departments. Due to structural instability, Clear Creek Urban Search & Rescue was requested to stabilize portions of the structure to enable safe recovery operations.

Clinton County EMA responded to the scene to support Public Information Officer (PIO) operations, coordinate interagency notifications, provide privacy tents for recovery operations, and assist with resource coordination.

The incident generated significant regional media attention due to the number of fatalities and the involvement of multiple pediatric victims.

2. Incident Command

Incident Commander: Chief Andrew Wysong, Fire District 3 – Clinton-Warren Joint Fire District

Public Information Officer: Thomas Breckel, Clinton County Emergency Management Agency

Other ICS roles were not documented as part of PIO operations.

3. Operational Timeline

Time	Event
Tuesday, 3 March 2026	
6:40 AM	Multiple 911 calls received by Clinton County Sheriff's Office Dispatch. Note: The initial dispatch address was reported as 123 W. Main Street by the caller, who was unable to clearly read the address. The fire was later confirmed to be located at 143 W. Main Street.
6:42 AM	Station 60 dispatched
6:44 AM	First unit arrival on scene
6:45 AM	Fire attack initiated (water suppression and entry)
6:51 AM	Adult male survivor located and transported to Clinton Regional Hospital (CRH)
Shortly after	Survivor transferred to Miami Valley Hospital for higher level of care
6:58 AM	BOX-14 requested by Clinton County Sheriff's Office Dispatch ISD CWJFD
7:00 AM	BOX-14 alert transmitted via CCEA
7:23 AM	EMA notified American Red Cross partners
7:32 AM	BOX-14 enroute
7:43 AM	BOX-14 arrival on-scene

Time	Event
8:04 AM	Notified Mayor Wood of the fire and potential impact. She will contact a council member to make the village office restrooms available to responders. Mayor Wood was out of town for a family funeral.
8:09 AM	CCSD Dispatch call to request EMA for PIO assistance ISO CWJFD
8:11 AM	EMA enroute with one stop
8:24 AM	<p>Obtained initial times from dispatch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • call came in at 0640 am • station 60 was dispatched to scene at 0642 • fire department on scene at 0644 • Fire departments on scene are Clinton/Warren Joint, Blanchester Fire Department, Units from Warren Co. and Wilmington Fire Department. • One person transported to CRH at 0651 • One victim was located at 0810
8:47 AM	EMA arrived on-scene; fire appeared to be out
8:52 AM	Met with Chief Wysong and Assistant Chief Burton to build timeline and facts. Advised of one (1) adult male located and transported to CRH. Locate what is believed to be adult female, infant, and one child. Two children are believed to be missing.
8:57 AM	Call with Assistant Chief Burton checking for updates
10:08 AM	Initial inquiry from FOX19 Now (Theresa Weaver)
~10:15 AM	Update from Chief Wysong indicates two missing children have been located in bedroom with the others. Additional interviews indicate there may be an additional child missing (unaccounted for).
10:20 AM	Requested five (5) pediatric body bags from Highland County EMA
10:32 AM	Weather forecast obtained from NWS Wilmington
10:35 AM	Live shot with FOX19
10:36 AM	Initial inquiry from Channel 2 in Dayton (Carlos)
10:43 AM	Transfer of EMA shed key to Lt Birt (Wilmington Fire) to obtain and transport three (3) tents for use with recovery operations
10:44 AM	Initial inquiry from WLWT in Cincinnati (Todd Dykes)
10:54 AM	Initial inquiry with WCPD 9 in Cincinnati (news desk)

Time	Event
11:11 AM	Initial inquiry from WHIO in Dayton (Brooke)
11:12 AM	Phone interview from WCPO 9 in Cincinnati (news desk)
11:15 AM	Initial inquiry from 700 WLW (Matt Ries)
11:20 AM	Initial call with WCPO 9 (Sam Harasonivics) enroute
11:29 AM	Initial interview with 700 WLW
11:36 AM	Initial inquiry from Local 12 (Chelsea Sick)
12:13 AM	Call with Coroner Office (Gary Garrison) confirming five (5) pediatric body bags are in route and will arrive at approximately 12:20 pm (on-scene)
12:20 PM	Pediatric body bags received from Highland County EMA
12:25 PM	Press Briefing (WLWT, Local 12, WDTN 2, FOX19, WCPO 9)
12:32 PM	Verification of information WCPO 9 (Sam Harasonivics)
12:56 PM	Quick update with American Red Cross (Gail Rose)
1:00 PM	Follow-up with WNJ (Richard/Chad Foltz)
~1:00 PM	Recovery operations initiated after USAR stabilization
1:03 PM	FOX19 verification of information and checking for any updates
1:05 PM	Call with Assistant Chief Burton checking for updates
1:12 PM	Check for information updates with Assistant Chief Burton (CWJFD). Directed to Chief Mason.
1:12 PM	Call with Chief Mason for information update. Advised that remains of a sixth victim has been located (total now shows as adult female, infant, and four children).
1:18 PM	FOX19 verification of information and checking for any updates
1:36 PM	Advised the remains of the missing child was also found in the bedroom. This brings the total deceased to one (1) adult female, one (1) infant, four (4) children. The sole survivor as adult male.
1:36 PM	Began updating the media on site and in text threads of the update.
1:42 PM	Verified though CRH that Adult Male patient was transported to Miami Valley in Dayton

Time	Event
2:45 PM	EMA demobilized; State Fire Marshal PIO assumed media coordination (Jarrod Clay, Ohio Department of Commerce, 614-867-8732)
2:58 PM	Advised BOX-14 demobilized and cleared the scene
3:20 PM	Media inquiry from People Magazine (Maria Pasquini)
3:23 PM	Update of situation with CBS News (Evan Coan), directed to State Fire Marshal PIO (Jarrod Clay)
3:59 PM	Victim count verification with 700 WLW
4:10 PM	Verification of information with 700 WLW, directed to State Fire Marshal PIO (Jarrod Clay)
Wednesday, 4 March 2026	
06:38 AM	Redirected FOX19 inquiry to State Fire Marshal PIO (Jarrod Clay)

4. Incident Impacts

Safety and Security

Total victims: 7

- 6 fatalities
- 1 survivor transported
- No additional missing persons identified

Health and Medical

- Survivor transported to Clinton Regional Hospital at 06:51
- Later transferred to Miami Valley Hospital for higher level of care
- 8 firefighters injured during suppression operations
- Injury types included 6 electrical shock exposures and 2 burn injuries
- 4 firefighters were transported to a hospital for evaluation and later released with minor injuries

Housing

- Primary residence destroyed
- Surviving victim displaced

Structural Stability

- Stairway collapse prevented interior access to second floor
- Structural compromise required USAR stabilization before recovery

5. Actions Taken

- Fire suppression operations conducted by Clinton County fire districts and mutual aid partners
- Survivor located and transported for emergency medical treatment
- Structural stabilization performed by Clear Creek Urban Search & Rescue
- Recovery operations conducted following stabilization
- Privacy tents established for dignified recovery operations
- SPOT report transmitted to Ohio EMA, American Red Cross, and Commissioner Steed
- Public information coordination conducted by EMA
- Weather monitoring conducted to anticipate impacts to recovery operations

6. Aerial Support Operations

During the incident, the Clinton County Sheriff's Office deployed their Skydio X10 unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to assist fire operations.

The drone provided overhead thermal imaging (FLIR) and site visualization to support the Clinton-Warren Joint Fire District (CWJFD). This capability allowed responders to monitor potential hot spots and fire spread from above and to observe interior conditions through upper-floor windows without requiring firefighters to enter structurally compromised areas.

Drone operations were conducted prior to the arrival of Clear Creek Urban Search & Rescue and helped provide situational awareness during a period when the collapsed stairway and structural instability limited interior access to the second floor.

The aerial imagery supported incident command in evaluating fire conditions and determining operational priorities while minimizing responder exposure to hazardous structural conditions.

7. Resources Utilized

Fire and EMS

- Fire District 1
- Fire District 3
- EMS from Fire District 6
- Fire District 8-1
- EMS District 8-2
- Warren County mutual aid fire departments

Specialized Resources

- Clear Creek Urban Search & Rescue
- BDX-14 Responder Support Unit
- Clinton County EMA
- Highland County EMA

Equipment and Support

- Three privacy tents for recovery operations
- Pediatric body bags (five) provided by Highland County EMA

8. Communications and Coordination

EMA conducted multiple coordination functions during the incident:

- Courtesy notification to American Red Cross partners at 7:23 AM
- SPOT Report transmitted to state and partner agencies at 12:54 PM
- On-scene coordination with Incident Command and investigative partners
- Ongoing communication with local, regional, and national media outlets

9. Public Information Activities

Due to the severity of the incident, media interest was significant. EMA Public Information activities included:

- Eight media interviews
- One press briefing
- Development of a written press release (not utilized)
- On-scene coordination with media outlets
- Transition of PIO responsibilities to State Fire Marshal PIO prior to EMA demobilization

10. Operational Challenges

Several factors complicated response operations.

Structural Compromise

The interior stairway collapsed, preventing normal access to the second floor where victims were ultimately located.

Fire Conditions

Heavy fire involvement in the upper level significantly limited interior access during early suppression operations.

Electrical Hazard Exposure

Downed or compromised electrical components within the structure created an electrocution hazard during suppression operations, resulting in several firefighter injuries.

Victim Access

Firefighters were required to utilize alternate entry methods to reach the upper floor due to structural instability.

Recovery Safety

Structural stabilization was required before remains could be safely recovered.

Weather Concerns

Forecasted rain and wind later in the morning posed potential challenges for recovery operations and scene management.

11. Operational Strengths

Rapid Initial Response: Fire units arrived within minutes of dispatch and initiated immediate suppression operations.

Effective Interagency Coordination: Multiple fire districts, EMS agencies, USAR teams, and EMA coordinated effectively during suppression and recovery operations.

Timely Resource Support: External resources including USAR and specialized recovery equipment were requested and deployed effectively.

Use of Aerial Thermal Imaging: Deployment of the Clinton County Sheriff's Office Skydio X10 drone provided valuable situational awareness through thermal imaging and visual reconnaissance of upper-floor conditions while minimizing risk to firefighters.

Public Information Management: EMA provided early coordination with media and partner agencies, ensuring accurate information dissemination during a high-profile incident.

12. Areas for Improvement

ICS Documentation: Not all incident command roles were clearly documented by PIO during operations.

Media Coordination Transition: Earlier identification of lead investigative PIO responsibilities may streamline messaging during high-profile incidents.

Responder Health Tracking: Improved documentation of responder injuries and treatment locations may support post-incident analysis.

13. Recommendations

1. Encourage formal documentation of ICS assignments during major incidents.
2. Establish early coordination between local PIOs and investigative agency PIOs during fatal incidents (following State Fire Marshal notification).
3. Integrate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into fireground operations where appropriate to enhance situational awareness and reduce risk to responders.
4. Continue interagency training exercises involving Incident Command, PIO, and support partners.
5. Consider the use of a DIM reporting format (Dead, Injured, Missing) when communicating victim status during incidents. A standardized DIM count may improve clarity for media and partner agencies when casualty numbers

are evolving. During mass-casualty incidents, an additional "T" (Transported) indicator may also be used to identify the number of victims transported from the scene for medical treatment.