



Annex C: Emergency Support Function #3 – Public Works

July 2023

Coordinating Agency

Hamilton County Environmental Services

Supporting Agencies

Hamilton County Communications Center
Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Hamilton County Facilities
Hamilton County Planning + Development
Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office
Hamilton County Public Health
Hamilton County Purchasing
Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati
Local Jurisdictional Public Works Agencies

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 – Public Works is to establish how activities related to public works will be coordinated during and after disasters to meet the emergency needs of Hamilton County, OH. This ESF describes the operational components as well as roles and responsibilities of the agencies necessary to fulfill the duties of ESF #3.

Scope

ESF #3 serves to coordinate activities related to public works in Hamilton County during the response and recovery phases of the emergency management cycle. During and shortly after the incident, ESF #3 is responsible for supporting the County in addressing public works issues related to debris management, water and wastewater services, building demolition and restoration efforts in areas the County is directly responsible for, and integrating state and federal assistance into the response and recovery efforts.

Activities of ESF #3 include supporting coordination of efforts among the county and incorporated political subdivisions on clearing, removing, transporting, segregating, reducing, and disposing of debris generated by a disaster; monitoring and reporting the status of and damage to water and wastewater infrastructure as a result of an incident; maintaining situational awareness of building demolition and restoration activities, and requesting/integrating state and federal assistance into the response and recovery.

Situation

Although public works generally encompasses utilities such as transportation services, telecommunications, electric, and natural gas, these topics are covered in more detail under ESFs #1 – Transportation, #2 – Communications, #12 – Energy, and #14 – Private Sector & Infrastructure respectively. This ESF will focus on debris management, water and wastewater utilities, building demolition/restoration, and state and federal assistance.

There is no single county organization that has oversight over all varieties of public works assistance that may be required following a disaster. Because debris management is the core activity of ESF #3, Hamilton

County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) will serve as the Coordinating Agency for ESF #3 as they are the Debris Management Coordinating Agency (DMCA) in the *2022 Hamilton County Debris Management Plan (DMP)*.

All Supporting Agencies for ESF #3 may be required to report individually on their emergency missions when activated in the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or at the site of the disaster. Each operating department will communicate directly with its own field forces and in turn will keep the County EOC informed of all activities performed, resources committed, and any additional personnel/equipment needed to maintain adequate response and recovery efforts, via ESF #3.

Hamilton County is susceptible to numerous hazards that could directly impact public works operations or trigger cascading hazards that impact public works:

- Tornadoes and high wind events can result in massive amounts of debris that must be managed and disposed of and hazardous building conditions that need to be addressed.
- The secondary hazard of power outages caused by severe weather can result in any number of water service disruptions including pipe breaks/leaks; infrastructure failure; reduced water quality; loss of access to facilities and supplies; as well as financial, social, environmental, and health consequences.
- Flooding and severe thunderstorms can result in wastewater backups and damaged or clogged storm drains.
- Multiple hazard types can cause property damage to homes, public buildings, and other facilities. Buildings and structures may be destroyed, severely damaged, or weakened. Those structures may require stabilization, repairs, or demolition to ensure safety.

Water Utility

In a major disaster the public water supply system, which includes treatment plants, storage and pumping facilities, and distribution networks could be damaged, interrupted, or contaminated. Ensuring safe, potable water in an emergency/disaster situation is a critical function of ESF #3 Supporting Agencies.

The primary water utility for Hamilton County is the publicly owned and operated, Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). GCWW provides water and service to the entire City of Cincinnati and the majority of Hamilton County (referred to as Retail Service Area in graphic below). They also sell water wholesale to the City of Norwood and the City of Reading, which are then responsible for managing the systems and distribution in their service areas. There are 13 water departments that provide water and service to the remaining jurisdictions. They include:

1. Addyston Water
2. Clermont County Water
3. Cleves Water
4. Glendale Water
5. Harrison TWP/CTY Water
6. Indian Hill Water
7. Lockland Water
8. Loveland Water
9. Milford Water
10. SW Regional Water District
11. Twin Rivers Water
12. Warren County Water
13. Wyoming Water

GCWW and the local water departments provide a vital service to the community. Their water is used for drinking, common household activities, irrigation, industry, healthcare, firefighting, and more. A safe water supply is critical to protecting public health. Absent, inadequate, or poorly managed water and sanitation services expose individuals to preventable health risks and disease.

Additionally, fire hydrants are supplied by the same system of water mains, pumps, and storage tanks that distribute water throughout the County. GCWW manages approximately 10,500 of the 30,000 hydrants in Hamilton County. The other roughly 19,500 hydrants are maintained by the fire departments that service the communities where the hydrants are located. It is critical to maintain these systems during a disaster to prevent disease, protect crops, continue the operations of essential industry, and maintain firefighting services.

GCWW operates two water treatment facilities in Hamilton County. The Richard Miller Treatment Plant in Cincinnati provides the bulk of the water supply with a treatment capacity of 240 million gallons per day. It is a surface water treatment plant, drawing water from the Ohio River. The Ohio River catchment area is very prone to contamination by municipal wastewater discharges, sanitary sewer overflows, and urban and agricultural storm water runoff. Additionally, a wastewater treatment plant located near Alexandria, Kentucky discharges its water less than 11 miles upstream of GCWW’s water intake source. Thus, treatment at the Richard Miller Treatment Plant is crucial to the continued supply of safe water to residents.



To assist in mitigating spill contamination from the Ohio River, GCWW has settling reservoirs that provide emergency water storage in the event of a spill in the Ohio River. During a river spill, pumping of the river water can be halted until the spill passes the water intakes, utilizing water from the settling reservoirs to mitigate decreased water intake. This helps ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to customers without risking water supply contamination.

The second water treatment facility is the Charles M. Bolton Wellfield (abbreviated CMBP in the above graphic) in Fairfield, OH. This facility has a treatment capacity of 40 million gallons per day and draws water from the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. This treatment facility provides additional water security as it is located in a different part of the County and it draws from a separate water source. The aquifer is highly susceptible to natural and human-caused contaminants because it is relatively shallow and does not have thick clay layers to protect it from contaminants.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates GCWW operations and enforces requirements under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA ensures that facilities comply with environmental regulations and statutes through monitoring and reporting.

Wastewater Utility

Sewer systems are a network of pipes that carry wastewater away from a population to wastewater treatment facilities. The sewer lines can become flooded, overwhelmed, or damaged in a disaster.

Additionally, a waste/wastewater treatment facility may be taken out of service during natural disasters, water pressure/supply may be lost, interrupting waste removal processes, and mass congregations of people may overwhelm existing wastewater amenities. In such cases, raw sewage may be released into the environment. Effective sanitation is essential to provide a healthy and acceptable environment for people to live in after a disaster.

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) is the primary publicly owned and operated wastewater utility in Hamilton County. MSD provides sewer services to approximately 230,000 residents in Hamilton County, including the entire City of Cincinnati and 43 of the 49 municipalities in the County. They operate and maintain over 3,000 miles of public sewers, 100 pump stations, 9 wet weather facilities, and 9 wastewater treatment plants.

Of the six communities that MSD does not service (see Tab A – MSD Service Map), Harrison Township and City are serviced by the Harrison Wastewater Treatment Facility, Whitewater Township is serviced by the Whitewater Township Regional Sewer District, the Village of Glendale is serviced by Glendale Utility Department, the City of Milford is serviced by Milford Wastewater Department, and Terrace Park is serviced by private septic tanks. The areas marked on the map as “Home Sanitary Treatment Systems” in Tab A are household sewage treatment systems/semi-public treatment systems that both treat and dispose of household wastewater at the same site. These systems can also be referred to as “Sewage Treatment Systems” or “Household Sewage Treatment Systems.”

Semi-public treatment systems are used in large residences (e.g., apartment buildings) and businesses not connected to a public sewer. These septic systems can treat large amounts of wastewater and are regulated by the Ohio EPA with inspection and enforcement of the systems overseen by the local health departments.

MSD does not handle stormwater. Stormwater runoff is the responsibility of numerous stormwater management utilities across the County. In cases where there are combined sewer systems that have stormwater draining into wastewater pipes with sewage, it is no longer considered stormwater and must be processed at a treatment plant in the same manner as sewage. For areas that rely on Home Sanitary Treatment Systems or are not covered by a stormwater utility, a dry well is commonly used to divert and collect stormwater runoff.

Ohio EPA regulates MSD operations and enforces requirements/standards under the Clean Water Act, Effluent Guidelines, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The EPA ensures that facilities comply with environmental regulations and statutes through monitoring and reporting.

Building Demolition and Restoration

The Division of Buildings + Inspections (B+I) of the Hamilton County Planning + Development Department is responsible for issuing Building Permits within the unincorporated townships of Hamilton County and eight contract jurisdictions (see Tab B – Buildings + Inspections Coverage Map). B+I also have responsibility for condemning structures but does not have an existing building code enforcement program. If a structure needs to be demolished, the property owner or the jurisdiction the building resides in will be responsible for finding a demolition contractor and covering the expenses. Any jurisdiction not covered by B+I is required to maintain their own buildings department per the Ohio Revised Code, Section 307.38.

The Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) Environmental Health Division is responsible for inspections and providing technical assistance in response to complaints regarding interior sewage and flooding, mold, vectors and insects, animal waste, and unsafe living conditions. The Environmental Health Division may work in conjunction with HCPH Water Quality Division to respond to situations concerning sewage and sewage systems. The Waste Management Division is responsible for solid waste, trash, and illegal dumping.

Certain conditions may indicate imminent danger to occupants and surrounding residents and present a potential health emergency. If a structure meets certain critical indicators of being unsuitable for habitation, the Environmental Health Division may condemn a structure, however they do not order demolition. Some conditions indicating a dangerous environment include:

- Inoperable sewage systems, including nonfunctional toilets.
- Absence of running water.
- No electricity.
- Sewage backup into basement.
- Inadequate entry and exit paths due to debris, which hinder the ability of first responders to enter the premises during an emergency.

Note that HCPH does not respond to complaints for areas under purview of City of Cincinnati Health Department, Springdale Health Department, or Norwood Health Department, nor do they play a role in physically repairing structures.

Assumptions

Planning requires assumptions based on statistics, history, behavior patterns and likely future trends. The following assumptions were made in consideration of ESF #3:

- Rapid assessment of the involved area(s) will be initiated to determine critical needs and priorities. Resources, including personnel, will be identified, prioritized, and managed based on critical needs. ESF #3 will prioritize emergency missions by addressing life safety and human health issues first.
- The Hamilton County Debris Management Plan (DMP) will be activated for disposal of materials from large-scale debris clearance and demolition activities (see Tab C – Hamilton County Debris Management Plan).
- Jurisdictions will be required to conduct emergency debris removal without County assistance during the initial phases of a disaster. Municipalities will be responsible for the removal and disposal of debris on their legal rights-of-way.
- Debris removal on private property will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- Emergency environmental waivers and legal clearance may be needed for disposal of materials from debris clearance and demolition activities.
- Local, county, and state requirements remain in effect unless revised by the appropriate authorities in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Additional consumer protection programs may be put in place to protect citizens (i.e., protection against price gouging, fraudulent charitable solicitation, or disreputable repair service contractors).
- To the maximum extent possible during a disaster, public works will continue to provide services within their jurisdiction(s) through normal means; however, non-essential activities may be curtailed or eliminated until full operations can be re-established.
- Additional public works services and equipment may be provided to some degree by mutual aid or contracted on an emergency basis when required for response and recovery operations.
- County departments may need authority to enter private property to evaluate and repair utilities that jeopardize public and private property or threaten public health or the environment.

- Water pressure may be low, hampering firefighting and impairing sewer system function.

Concept of Operations

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 – Public Works consists of four broad activities in relation to the Hamilton County Emergency Operations Plan. These activities are:

ESF #3 Activities	
1.	Supporting Debris Management Operations
2.	Monitoring Water and Wastewater Utility Impacts
3.	Maintaining Awareness of Building Demolition and Restoration Activities
4.	Integrating State and Federal Assistance

When the Hamilton County EOC is activated, the Operations Coordination Section Chief will notify agencies of ESF #3 when public works capabilities are required for County assessment, response, and recovery activities during emergencies. Full or partial activation of ESF #3 will depend upon the requirements for response and recovery.

Upon notification of ESF #3 activation, HCDOES will send a representative to the County EOC. They will provide support for all public works activities at the County level, coordinating with other ESF representatives and assisting jurisdictions upon request.

Close coordination is maintained between ESF #3 agencies/departments during emergencies to:

- Prioritize response and recovery missions.
- Share and update information.
- Ensure expedient response and recovery actions.
- Avoid redundant activities.
- Ensure a unified effort when working with local, county, state, federal, and private organizations.
- Provide accurate intelligence to other organizations in the Hamilton County EOC and at the site of the emergency.

Supporting Debris Management Operations

Disasters may generate debris of types and quantities that exceed the County’s capabilities. For this reason, Hamilton County maintains a Debris Management Plan (DMP) (see Tab C) with HCDOES as the Debris Management Coordinating Agency (DMCA). HCDOES will provide technical assistance and coordinate with the entities involved in the debris management process. The role as DMCA may be active even when the Hamilton County EOC is not activated. In the event of an activation, the HCDOES will both coordinate ESF #3 activities and serve as the DMCA.

Because the Hamilton County DMP is a comprehensive document providing guidance on how debris management operations should be handled during a disaster, this annex will only briefly highlight important aspects from the plan.

Public Property/Rights-of-Way Debris Removal

- Debris deposited on public property including the right-of-way will be the responsibility of local government.
- Curbside sorting and separation will be the preferred operation unless it will lead to slower overall recovery times and increased waste handling costs.
- Removal and disposal actions should be handled at the lowest level possible based on the magnitude of an event. Removal and disposal follow the normal chain of responsibility (i.e., local jurisdiction, county, state), and when resources are exceeded at each level of responsibility, federal assistance may be requested according to established procedures.

Private Property Debris Removal

- Debris deposited on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.
- In some cases, where a health and/or safety threat exists, private property owners may move event-related debris to the public right-of-way or curb for removal by public/government forces.
- All costs from the removal of debris from demolition of dangerous structures are the responsibility of the property owner. The cost of debris removal and disposal may be wholly or partly covered by insurance.
- Any water source located on private property is the responsibility of the property owner to clear of debris.

Debris Disposal and Route Clearance

- Contractors capable of assisting the County with debris removal and collection have been pre-identified in the DMP and can be quickly notified that their services are needed. ESF #3 will share contractor information with the Resource Unit Leader in ESF #5.
- ESF #1 – Transportation is responsible for identifying critical transportation routes that require priority clearance and communicating that information to ESF #3.
 - If roads need to be closed, ESF #1 will notify public works departments, the County Engineer's Office, and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) of the need for barricades and closure signage. It is the responsibility of the Engineer's Office, local public works, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to clear transportation routes of debris.
- Reduction efforts are emphasized throughout the debris management process due to the importance of reducing waste streams and diverting reusable, recyclable waste from landfills. Different methods of collection, reduction and disposal that may be conducted in Hamilton County depending on the debris types and available resources.

Debris Management Site Identification

- Hamilton County has pre-identified potential debris management sites for the sole purpose of temporarily storing, segregating, and reducing debris. ESF #3 will inform the EOC of debris management site locations and inform ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information of appropriate information to disseminate to the public.
- If a local jurisdiction wishes to share resources, including debris management sites, they must coordinate with the DMCA and follow the minimum requirements established in the DMP.

Monitoring Water and Wastewater Utility Impacts

Due to the number of independently operating municipalities in Hamilton County, there are a myriad of water and wastewater utilities providing services to residents. This results in differing priorities, goals, response procedures, capabilities, and resources. ESF #3 will work with MSD, GCWW and local water/wastewater utilities to identify:

- Disruptions to operations and public works facilities/infrastructure.
- Threats to the lives and safety of residents.
- Response and recovery priorities/goals.
- Current response and recovery actions.
- Estimated deployment and/or restoration time of public works services.
- Resource gaps, including emergency power needs.

ESF #3 will use the above information to create a common operating picture and provide situational awareness in the County EOC and amongst the involved water/wastewater utilities. If there is an immediate need for public works resources in a certain area due to life-safety issues or potential/actual lifeline disruption, ESF #3 will coordinate with MSD and GCWW to prioritize activities or assist the local water/wastewater department, if able.

The pre-positioning of ESF #3 resources may take place depending upon the nature of the hazard. ESF #3 will coordinate with ESF #7 — Resource Management, and ESF #5 — Information & Planning when establishing staging areas for personnel, equipment, and supplies. This will ensure that the best sites are identified, established, and that site locations, contact numbers, and capabilities are distributed to personnel needing this information.

FEMA's Core Capabilities – ESF #3

- **Infrastructure Systems** – Water and wastewater systems are considered critical infrastructure as access to clean, safe water is a requirement for all human activity and properly treated wastewater is vital for preventing disease and protecting the environment. Critical services, such as firefighting and healthcare (hospitals), and other dependent and interdependent sectors, such as Energy, Food and Agriculture, and Transportation Systems, would suffer negative impacts from a denial of water/wastewater services. By quickly restoring and maintaining water and wastewater systems, ESF #3 is helping to stabilize critical infrastructure functions, and minimize health and safety threats. ESF #3 also supports debris clearance, removal, and disposal, helping to restore and revitalize systems and services for a more resilient community.

GCWW communicates with their field personnel on a regular basis using cell phones and 800 MHz radios with dedicated channels on the City of Cincinnati network. MSD communicates with their personnel using cell phones. Coordination between the Coordinating and Supporting Agencies and the EOC is by direct communication (e.g., phone or radio) if possible, or any other means available if necessary.

The primary activity of ESF #3 in relation to water/wastewater utilities is gathering and sharing information. While each water/wastewater utility may have different resource requirements and operational priorities, by maintaining situational awareness ESF #3 can consolidate information from all impacted jurisdictions to better understand the needs of the County as a whole, make recommendations on priority of repairs, and mobilize external resources to the areas of greatest need. ESF #3 will also assist with resource requests from public works agencies and departments both at the County and jurisdiction level, relaying resource requests to ESF #7.

Water and wastewater services are provided by special districts through franchise agreements. During an emergency or disaster, the re-establishment of services will be the responsibility of the service provider. However, the public utilities (MSD and GCWW) will assist with efforts outside of their service districts as resources allow.

Each local public works department will maintain authority within its own jurisdiction. Every department will direct and control their own public works resources and system(s), including managing, monitoring, and tracking their resources. While there is no formal agreement between MSD and GCWW, both departments fall under the City of Cincinnati and therefore have a separate process for tracking shared resources and expenses. This allows for greater flexibility of resource sharing between the two, including personnel.

Maintain Awareness of Building Demolition and Restoration Activities

Disasters frequently result in structural damage to buildings, creating a need for inspection, repairs, condemnation, and demolition. The Hamilton County Division of Buildings + Inspections (B+I) is the county appointed building official responsible for building inspections and permit issuance within the unincorporated townships (TWP) of Hamilton County and eight contract jurisdictions (see table below or Tab B). Within those roles, B+I also play a part in building repair, condemnation, demolition, and temporary occupancy permits.

If any buildings are severely impacted by a disaster, B+I investigate to determine if the building(s) require a "Repair or Demolish Order," which may require permits be granted by B+I. When B+I issue a Repair or

Demolish Order, the building owner may choose to repair their property or demolish it; however, until one of the options is completed, the building is considered condemned and not safe for occupancy. It should be noted that B+I do not have any role in physically repairing, stabilizing, or demolishing structures, or acquiring contractors to complete these activities.

Contracted Jurisdictions	Unincorporated Townships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amberly VLG • Fairfax VLG • Golf Manor VLG • Lincoln Heights VLG • Lockland VLG • North Bend VLG • Village of Indian Hill CTY • Woodlawn VLG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson TWP • Colerain TWP • Columbia TWP • Crosby TWP • Delhi TWP • Green TWP • Harrison TWP • Miami TWP • Springfield TWP • Sycamore TWP • Symmes TWP • Whitewater TWP

If an unsafe, substandard, or unsanitary condition is found in a building, B+I serve the property owner an “Unsafe Building Order.” This order designates the building and describes the repairs or improvements required to render the structure safe, secured, and/or sanitary. The order will require the repairs/improvements be made or that the unsafe portion be demolished within a certain period of time. B+I will also provide the water and wastewater utilities servicing the structure the Unsafe Building Order with a request to discontinue utility services when it constitutes a hazard to the public. If B+I order repairs/improvements to be made to a structure, the property owner is responsible for financing and finding a qualified contractor to complete the repairs. B+I will conduct inspections throughout the repair process to ensure adequate standards of practice are upheld and that repairs are compliant with building codes, resolutions, and ordinances.

HCPH Environmental Health Division will respond to situations where there are unsanitary or unsafe conditions making occupancy dangerous and/or poses a danger to the community. If a building has been damaged by a disaster and it continues to be occupied without any attempts to repair or remediate the unsanitary/unsafe conditions, HCPH may inspect the structure, in conjunction with B+I, to determine if it needs to be condemned. Once condemned, the structure must be vacated, and the property owner is responsible for fixing the cited problems. It is against the law to reside in a condemned structure; occupants must vacate the building.

Once the unsanitary/unsafe conditions have been remediated, HCPH will come back for a follow-up inspection and remove the condemnation order if adequate measures have been taken. If the structure remains unsanitary/unsafe, the condemnation order will remain in effect indefinitely until appropriate actions are taken. HCPH works with County departments and private organizations to assist condemned building occupants in finding temporary housing and mental health support, when necessary.

Emergency stabilization of a structure may be done without a permit. After a building has been stabilized, the property owner would then need a permit for repairs or demolition. The property owner is responsible for stabilization activities.

When there is actual and immediate risk of failure or collapse of a building or structure that would endanger life or safety, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and use or occupancy of the structure would endanger life or safety, B+I may order and require the occupants to vacate and refrain from using the building. Once a vacation order has been given, contractors may be allowed to enter the structure to conduct repairs or demolition if they have received the appropriate permits from B+I.

In order to obtain a demolition permit, the property owner must submit to the utility companies servicing the building a written notice of their intent to demolish the building and request that all utilities disconnect service. This must then be provided to B+I before a permit for demolition can be ordered. The property owner is responsible for all repair and demolition expenses. If a property owner cannot be found and/or contacted within a certain amount of time, the jurisdiction the building resides in is responsible

for getting a demolition permit from B+I, putting a contract out to bid, and covering the expenses of demolition and disposal of demolition debris.

After demolition, the property must be restored to a state that is free of danger. This may include grading the site, covering surface holes/irregularities, clearing all debris from the premises, and plugging building sewers at the property line. After completion of demolition and site restoration, final inspection by B+I must be conducted.

B+I should coordinate with utility companies and HCPH to ensure that:

- Utilities can be shut off to a building before repairs, stabilization, demolition, and/or new construction.
- No utility systems will be damaged or cause cascading service disruptions while repairs, stabilization, demolition, and/or new construction occurs.
- Contaminants do not impact the quality of potable water, wastewater, or the surrounding environment.
- Residents vacating a building scheduled to be demolished are directed to appropriate housing and assistance resources.

Another role B+I may play after a disaster is granting a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. If sheltering operations are needed in structures that are not certified for occupancy, (e.g., tents, empty retail space, temporary structures), B+I can conduct an inspection and may grant a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy so that sheltering operations can be carried out in the structure.

After a disaster that results in damage to buildings, B+I is critical to ensuring the structures in their service areas are inspected for severity of damage and determining the method of remediation that is required or recommended to ensure the building is made safe for occupancy. While B+I is not the only building official in the county, the same building code is used County wide and therefore has similar processes.

B+I field personnel will provide regular updates to ESF #3 regarding:

- Approximate numbers and locations of unsafe structures.
- Ongoing activities and projects related to the incident.
- Permit requests, if relevant to emergency operations and overall response.
- Locations requiring utility shutoffs.
- Identified utility disruptions or dangerous conditions that could result in contamination of utility systems.

[Integrating State and Federal Assistance](#)

A public emergency may affect the lives of many local response personnel and their facilities, preventing them from performing their prescribed emergency duties. Similarly, equipment in the immediate emergency area may be damaged or inaccessible. Sufficient resources may not be available to local agencies to meet emergency requirements. State and/or federal assistance may be required to identify and deploy resources from outside the affected area to ensure a timely, coordinated, and effective response.

ESF #3 will cooperate and coordinate with other ESF Coordinating Agencies to ensure state and federal assets are deployed effectively and in response to appropriate priorities for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of residents. Coordinating and Supporting Agencies will coordinate with each other to ensure the most effective use of personnel and equipment, to avoid redundant activities, and to cooperate on emergency response missions.

Hamilton County ESF #3 Coordinating and Supporting Agencies will collaborate with Ohio ESF #3 agencies by working with them in the County EOC, in the field, and through the Ohio EOC. All ESF #3 agencies will maintain communications with their department and personnel in the field, simultaneously sharing

information with the EOC. ESF #3 will utilize the National Incident Management System/Incident Command System (NIMS/ICS) structure by operating under the ESF organization in the County EOC, while maintaining the established organizational and reporting structure within their own departments. Additionally, there are non-state and federal resources available to assist water/wastewater utilities.

The Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (Ohio WARN) is formed of water and wastewater agencies, referred to as “members,” that have entered into a mutual aid agreement (MAA) to share resources and assist each other in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and supplies in the event of emergencies that disrupt utility services. GCWW and MSD are members of Ohio WARN, as are most jurisdictional public works departments in the County, giving them access to regionally based utility-to-utility resources to support the restoration of public and private water/wastewater infrastructure. If sufficient assistance is not available via in-state sources, further assistance and resources can be accessed through U.S. WARN. U.S. WARN resources can be accessed through local mutual aid agreements, direct requests from local emergency management agencies to Ohio WARN, or through the Ohio EOC.

A member may request assistance from other members through an established process set forth in the MAA. No member is required to respond to a request for assistance, it is a voluntary agreement to provide assistance if willing and able. If a member is willing and able to assist, they will inform the requesting member of the type of resources available and the approximate arrival time of the assistance. When providing support under this MAA, the requesting member and the responding member will be organized and function under NIMS. In order to be eligible for federal emergency management assistance, water and wastewater mutual aid and assistance programs must meet NIMS standards for emergency preparedness and response.

The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) is a nonprofit organization that provides free or affordable technical assistance, training, and support services to communities with a population of less than 10,000. ORWA can provide free on-site technical assistance to Ohio's rural and/or small communities' public water and wastewater systems in emergency and non-emergency response situations. ORWA is available to support both members and non-members in an emergency by dispatching a technician to diagnose the water or wastewater system issue and assist in repairing the identified problem. The ORWA technician is an independent entity that will integrate into the existing response structure by reporting back to their identified point of contact.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) has the primary responsibility for monitoring the public works functions in Hamilton County during an emergency. HCDOES will serve as the Coordinating Agency for this ESF.

Coordinating Agency Responsibilities

Hamilton County Environmental Services will:

1. Coordinate the activities of Supporting Agencies within ESF #3 to fulfill operational objectives.
2. Direct the activities of ESF #3 in conjunction with assistance from ESFs at the local, state, or federal levels as applicable.
3. Collaborate with other Coordinating Agencies to ensure an effective response between ESFs.
4. Designate sufficient representatives (no less than three) to support/staff 24-hour operations at the Hamilton County EOC. The Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) will maintain listings of these personnel, 24-hour contact information, and directions for contacting them in the event of communication outages.
5. Implement internal standard operating procedures (SOPs) outlined in the EOC Manual (refer to EOC Manual for specific actions of ESF Representatives).
6. Share ESF #3 activity information with appropriate EOC personnel.
7. Prioritize ESF #3 operational strategies in alignment with the EOC and on-scene objectives.

8. Receive, manage, and track resource requests for ESF #3 in accordance with established resource management procedures.
9. Coordinate with ESF #7 – Resource Management and ESF #5 – Information & Planning when establishing staging areas for public works and engineering personnel, equipment, and supplies.
10. Request and facilitate connections to mutual aid-based resources for response to incidents that impact public and private water and wastewater utilities. Supplemental assistance may come from regional, state, or federal sources.
11. Coordinate with ESF #15 – Emergency Public Information for the inclusion of appropriate information for public dissemination.
12. Serve as the Debris Management Coordinating Agency and implement the *2022 Hamilton County Debris Management Plan* (Tab C) as appropriate.
13. Provide longer-term coordination of debris removal across Hamilton County and support the restoration and recovery of infrastructure with engineering technical support.
14. Assist in the development of the After-Action Report.

Supporting Agencies Responsibilities

Hamilton County Communications Center:

1. Will report debris that is a hazard to the health and safety of the public or blocking a major transportation route to the Hamilton County EOC, if activated.
2. May direct public inquiries to a non-emergency number for debris related questions.
3. Will notify wrecker companies of vehicles in debris clearance routes that must be relocated.
4. Will notify utility companies of utility related debris requiring removal or debris impacting utility equipment and/or property.
5. Will make notifications to public works, the Engineer’s Office, and/or Ohio Department of Transportation if route closure signs are needed.

Hamilton County Engineer’s Office will:

1. Provide personnel and equipment for the following engineering emergency activities:
 - a. Debris removal in public right-of-way, including bridges.
 - b. Repair within the public right-of-way.
 - c. Engineering reconnaissance.
 - d. Emergency drainage problems.
 - e. Emergency vehicle access to critical infrastructure.
2. Identify passable and impassable roads throughout the County, prioritizing debris clearance for critical routes.
3. Assist in identification of potential debris management sites.
4. Provide roadblock barricades and signs for County roads.

Hamilton County Facilities will:

1. Provide personnel and equipment for the following public works emergency activities for property and/or buildings owned by Hamilton County:
 - a. Debris removal.
 - b. Damage assessment.
 - c. Technical assistance for inspections, emergency repairs, and/or demolition of damaged county property.
2. Provide technical recommendations as requested by ESF #3 agencies during emergencies.
3. Identify emergency problems, shortfalls, and resource needs and communicate those to ESF #3.

Hamilton County Planning + Development will:

1. Assist in determining the structural integrity of buildings damaged by a disaster.
2. Dispatch a field team to assess disaster affected area and inventory structures as “safe” or “unsafe” and post official orders on “unsafe” buildings ordering them to be removed or repaired.
3. Provide personnel for flood damage assessments as needed at the site of the emergency.

4. Issue condemnation orders for buildings damaged by a disaster.
5. Issue Temporary Certificate(s) of Occupancy, if appropriate.
6. Provide technical assistance for inspections, emergency repairs, or demolition of damaged public buildings.
7. Ensure all repairs comply with current building codes and land-use regulations.

Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office will:

1. Review all projects on behalf of Hamilton County agencies for legal issues and impacts associated with disaster response and recovery.
2. Provide legal advice to Hamilton County decision makers as required.
3. Ensure all legal requirements are met when soliciting bids and hiring contractors.

Hamilton County Public Health will:

1. Assist in monitoring and tracking affected municipalities regarding resumption and availability of potable water, working sanitary and storm sewer systems, and garbage collection.
2. Provide regulatory oversight and technical assistance as needed for waste segregation and material handling, waste evaluation/classification, proper management of specific waste types, and reporting.
3. Assist in coordination of the provision of emergency waste disposal facilities for impacted neighborhoods and local government facilities, in conjunction with local/municipal personnel.
4. Provide increased regulatory oversight as needed for licensed waste disposal facilities/waste haulers and determine if regulatory waivers are necessary.
5. Inspect household sewage treatment systems for proper operations and as outlined in internal SOGs.
6. Assist with securing commercial chemical toilets and handwashing stations.
7. Assist in supervising the construction of alternate human waste disposal units (e.g., latrines) if commercial toilets are unavailable.
8. Assist with locating and distributing emergency potable water supplies.
9. Assure the sanitary transportation and treatment of water to be used as potable water, verifying that the water is potable prior to consumption.
10. Assist the County in delivering emergency water supplies via tanker trucks or other means.
11. Surveil storm sewers and waterways for pollution.
12. Assist with home condemnation.
13. Ensure coordinated messaging by working with ESF #15 on disseminating health and safety tips to the public.

Hamilton County Purchasing will:

1. Develop and/or implement procedures for hiring contractors to assist in response and recovery operations.
2. Establish contracts with agencies, organizations, and businesses able to assist with:
 - a. Debris removal and disposal.
 - b. Demolition and repair of buildings, roadways, and bridges.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works will:

1. Perform damage assessment on water systems (pump and lift stations, treatment plants, etc.).
2. Determine the locations and extent of water line breaks and coordinate with local and County agencies for repairs and traffic control.
3. Test for and provide potable water supply, in coordination with ESF #8 – Health and Healthcare Providers and ESF #6 – Mass Care.
4. Test water supplies for contamination.
5. Coordinate the issuance of boil water advisories and alerts.
6. Regulate water usage in times of shortages as appropriate, assuring priority is given to meet immediate/essential emergency needs.

7. Coordinate with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati to clear debris from areas impacting sewer and water infrastructure.
8. Identify emergency problems, shortfalls, and resource needs and communicate those to ESF #3.
9. Provide temporary water systems until normal operations resume.

Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati will:

1. Perform damage assessment on public works systems (pump stations, lift stations, treatment plants, etc.)
2. Determine location and extent of sewer line breaks and coordinate with local and County agencies for repairs and traffic control.
3. Test treated and untreated water for contamination.
4. Coordinate with local jurisdictions for repairs and decontamination, if necessary.
5. Respond to sewer backup reports.
6. Coordinate with Greater Cincinnati Water Works to clear debris from areas impacting sewer and water infrastructure.
7. Identify emergency problems, shortfalls, and resource needs and communicate those back to ESF #3.

Local Jurisdictional Public Works Agencies will:

1. To the extent possible, protect existing water supplies and restore damaged systems.
2. Provide temporary water and wastewater systems until normal operations resume.
3. Regulate water usage in times of shortages as appropriate, assuring priority is given to meet immediate/essential emergency needs.
4. Assist with debris clearance.
5. Communicate with the County EOC on status of public works systems and resource requests.

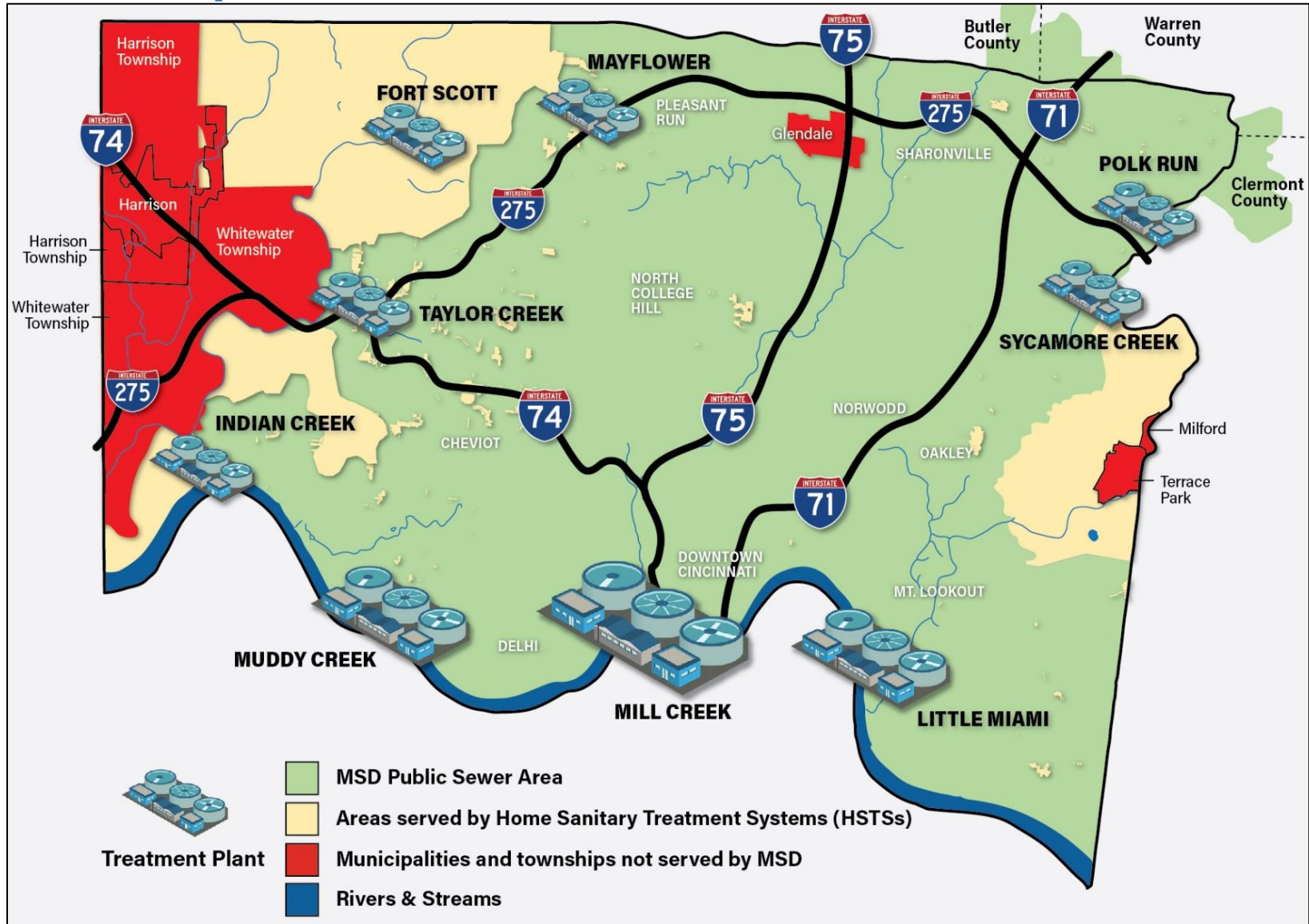
Attachments

[Tab A – MSD Service Map](#)

[Tab B – Buildings + Inspections Coverage Map](#)

[Tab C – Hamilton County Debris Management Plan](#)

Tab A – MSD Service Map



Tab B - Buildings + Inspections Coverage Map

