

Ottawa County Sheriff's Office

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Records

FROM: Sheriff Robert L. Bratton

Robert L. Bratton

DATE: Sunday, March 16, 2008

RE: *Snow Emergency, 03-08/03-09-08*

This report will document the snow emergency that I implemented on Saturday, March 08, and continuing to Sunday, March 09, 2008. The levels were implemented as follows:

7:20 AM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): Weather overnight was extremely treacherous. There is no question that we had drifting snow accumulating all over the County. Winds at this point were starting to pick up. Communication with the on-duty supervisor for the County Garage revealed that if this continued, we could have problems. We discussed the upcoming forecast which called for heavier snowfall lasting until late afternoon/early evening and that the winds would be picking up to 30-35 mph. It was determined that a Level 2 would be appropriate and that review would take place this same day at 10:00 a.m.

10:00 AM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): We reviewed the Level 2. The status remained the same with the potential for deterioration. In checking with the Road Patrol, we would remain at the Level 2.

10:50 AM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): I left my residence in Genoa and drove to the Oak Harbor area and stopped at the ODOT Garage. In talking with them, they stated that they currently had nine plows out, and at 12:00 noon they would be bringing in a new crew of nine drivers to continue the plows. Their weather information was that it was going to get heavier in the afternoon with winds of 35 mph which would cause serious drifting and possible road closures at that point. That was to continue throughout the night. There were some roads that needed attention due to drifting, but they felt confident that they could get to those roads and clean them up.

11:00 AM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): I drove from Oak Harbor to Port Clinton and found that the roads were more treacherous in the east end of the County than the west end. I was able to get to the office. There was some drifting in certain areas. On State Route 2 I noted that the lanes were covered but passable, and visibility at that point was approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to one mile.

1:00 PM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): In reviewing the entire situation with the weather conditions, at this time there was heavy snow continuing. The situation with white-outs in some areas had become worse. There were major sections of the County where roads were starting to drift to the point that traffic would be unable to pass through. Port Clinton, Marblehead, and Oak Harbor

went under snow emergencies. The Supervisor for the Engineer's Office advised that it was becoming more and more difficult to keep up with the weather, and at this time I issued a Level 3 for the County.

7:00 PM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): At this time I conducted a review with Communications and also talked to the Supervisor for the Engineer's Office, and I was advised that the wind and snow had stopped around 5:00 to 6:00 PM. They were now moving rapidly and working on the roads and felt that if this continued without snow and wind, they could service the roads so we could do away with the Level 3. However, at this time it was requested that we remain at Level 3 because they were just now getting to the problem areas. The Level 3 will remain, and a check will be done at 10:00 PM.

10:10 PM, 03-08-08 (Saturday): There was a review of the Level 3 at this time. The following was noted:

- Winds had died down.
- Snow had stopped.
- They had several hours to get a handle on the roads that were hard hit, and those roads were open.
- Things were looking much better, and if this continues with the weather cooperating, they should be able to work throughout the night to remove some of the snow that had accumulated.

At this time I felt that the Level 2 should be put in place. There were some snow-covered roads with ice, so the Level 2 is the appropriate level. There will be a review of this level at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, March 09, 2008.

7:00 AM, 03-09-08 (Sunday): I talked with Communications, and they stated that things were starting to improve. I advised Communications that I would continue the Level 2 until 10:30 a.m., at which time I would then check to see if we would lift the Level 2.

10:30 AM, 03-09-08 (Sunday): I talked with the Supervisor at the Engineer's Office who stated that the roads were looking much better. All of the problem areas had been addressed, and the roads were open. The sun was out at this time, and it appeared at this point that we could remove the Level 2 and go to no levels for the County. Therefore the Level 2 was lifted.

This snow emergency lasted from Saturday, March 08, 2008, at 7:20 a.m. and terminated on Sunday, March 09, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL NOTATION: It should be noted that throughout the storm, I was in communication with County Administrator Jere Witt. I also kept the Riverview Nursing Home and Davis Besse informed as to the levels that were issued. On Saturday, March 08, 2008, from 11:45 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., I worked in Communications, assisting in answering phones.

RLB:jkb

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Cc: Sheriff Robert L. Bratton
Chief Deputy Randy R. Riedmaier
Captain Stephen J. Levorchick
Director of Administration Deputy Rhonda St. Clair
County Administrator Jere Witt (emailed 03-16-08)
Assistant County Administrator Rhonda Slauterbeck (emailed 03-16-08)