

THE FLOODING IN CIESZYN SILESIA IN SEPTEMBER 2024 AND ITS IMPACT ON LOCAL ARCHIVES

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THE 2024 FLOODING IN SOUTHERN POLAND

- HEAVY RAINS BETWEEN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2024
- SOUTHERN VOIVODSHIPS ESPECIALLY AFFECTED: DOLNOŚLĄSKIE, OPOLSKIE, ŚLĄSKIE AND MAŁOPOLSKIE
- FLOODING IN NUMBERS: 9 DEATHS, 3241 PEOPLE EVACUATED, 50.000 PEOPLE WITHOUT ELECTRICITY



The map shows the region around Ostrava and Bielsko-Biala. The proposed railway line is highlighted in orange, and the proposed route is shown in red. The map includes major cities like Ostrava, Bielsko-Biala, and various smaller towns. The railway line is highlighted in orange, and the proposed route is shown in red. The map also displays the Vltava River and surrounding green areas.



THE 2024 FLOODING IN CIESZYN SILESIA

- OLZA RIVER REACHED A RECORD LEVEL OF 494 CM (PREVIOUS RECORD: 460 CM IN 1972)
- 55 BUILDINGS, RECREATIONAL AREAS AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES FLOODED IN MAŁA ŁĄKA DISTRICT OF CIESZYN
- VISTULA RIVER SURPASSED THE ALERT LEVEL OF 230 CM IN USTROŃ FLOODING BOTH CITY AND PRIVATE BUILDING
- IN SKOCZÓW VISTULA ROSE TO THE LEVEL OF 368 CM AND INUNDATED CITY CENTER
- IN ZEBRZYDOWICE PIOTRÓWKA RIVER ALSO FLOODED PRIVATE HOMES IN CITY CENTER

THE FLOOD AND LOCAL ARCHIVES IN CIESZYN SILESIA

- THE STATE ARCHIVES AND THE CITY ARCHIVES IN CIESZYN – SAFE
- THE CITY ARCHIVES IN ZEBRZYDOWICE – SAFE
- THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ – FLOODED BASEMENT
- THE CITY ARCHIVES IN SKOCZÓW – FLOODED BASEMENT
- (THE LAST TWO WERE INSPECTED BY A COMMISSION OF ARCHIVISTS FROM THE STATE ARCHIVES IN KATOWICE ON SEPTEMBER 27TH)



DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ



- SOURCE: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:POL_Ustro%C5%84_Ratusz_1.jpg, 14.05.2025

DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ

- PERSONAL CARDS FOR CITY DWELLERS
- 9 LINEAR METRES, 1975-2010
- 3 LINEAR METRES FLOODED
- MOVED BY CITY WORKERS UPSTAIRS, LEFT TO DRY
- UPON INSPECTION: DESICCATED, NO SIGNS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION, ONLY MINOR TRACES OF MUD
- RECOMMENDATION: DISINFECTION IN A VACUUM CHAMBER WITH ETHYLENE OXIDE.



DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ

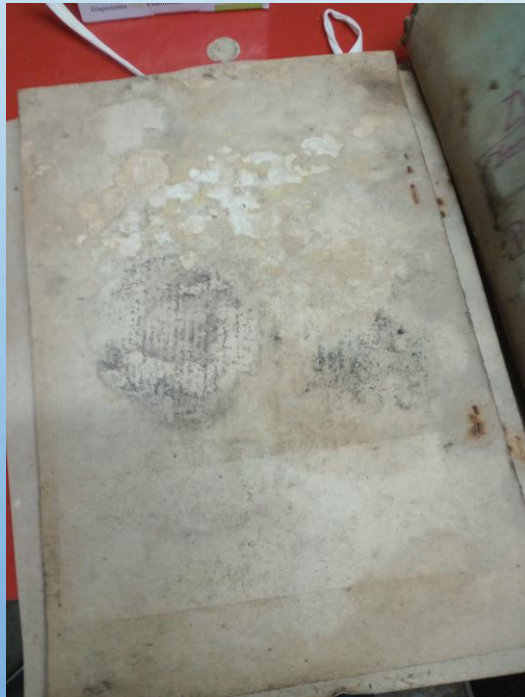
- REFUGEE REGISTRATION RECORDS (1 LINEAR METER FROM 2022) PRESENTED MUCH WORSE CONDITION
- STORED ON THE LOWEST SHELF IN A CARDBOARD BOX, THEY WERE SUBMERGED IN DIRTY WATER FOR THREE DAYS
- A SLIMY BLOCK OF CELLULOSE
- DATA STORED IN ELECTRONIC DATABASES, SO THE COMMISSION AGREED THAT RECORDS MAY BE WEEDED

DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ

- TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION: 10 LINEAR METERS OF CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS, ROADS, SEWAGE AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE
- THE MATERIALS LOCATED ON THE LOWEST SHELF (INSTALLED APPROXIMATELY 30 CM ABOVE THE FLOOR): SOAKED AND DAMP, SHOWING EXTENSIVE, FRESH SIGNS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY SUCH AS DISCOLORATION, EFFLORESCENCE, AND MOLD GROWTH
- THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED URGENT MOVING THE DOCUMENTATION TO DRY AND WELL-VENTILATED SPACE, CAREFUL SEGREGATION OF THE COLLECTION AND SUBSEQUENT DISINFECTION USING ETHYLENE OXIDE

DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ

- TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION



DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN USTROŃ

- THE DOCUMENTATION FROM THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS CONSISTED OF 14 SEALED BAGS, STORED IN A DESIGNATED ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE OFFICE
- 7 BAGS HAD NO SIGNS OF CONTAMINATION AND COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE ARCHIVES
- 7 OTHER BAGS WERE SUBMERGED IN WATER FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS BEFORE BEING TRANSPORTED TO AN EXTERNAL STORAGE FACILITY
- HAVING NO AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN THE BAGS, THE COMMISSION INSPECTED THEM ONLY EXTERNALLY AND FOUND TRACES OF POST-FLOOD MUD ON SURFACE.
- THE COMMISSION THEREFORE URGED THE CITY TO CONTACT NATIONAL ELECTORAL OFFICE TO SET A SEPARATE OPERATING PROCEDURE



DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN SKOCZÓW



SOURCE: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skocz%C3%B3w_Ratusz_58.JPG,

14.05.2025

DAMAGE REPORT: THE CITY ARCHIVES IN SKOCZÓW

- IN THE BASEMENT OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (1794): 27 BAGS OF RECORDS FROM THE 2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS
- WATER ENTERED THE BASEMENT THROUGH A SMALL WINDOW IN THE SIDE WALL AND THE BAGS WERE SUBMERGED FOR 24 HOURS
- BAGS WERE HEAVY, DAMP, WITH TRACES OF MUD
- THE COMMISSION IN THIS INSTANCE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO OPEN THE BAGS AND THEREFORE LIMITED ITS ASSESSMENT TO EXTERNAL OBSERVATIONS

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- PREVENTION:
- CREATING OPERATING PROCEDURES, MONITORING WEATHER ALERTS
- PREPARING RED BOXES WITH EMERGENCY MATERIALS
- RELOCATION OF ARCHIVAL HOLDING TO SAFE HOUSES
- IN CASE OF FLOODING:
- DRYING IN WELL-VENTILATED SPACE
- DISINFECTION USING ETHYLENE OXIDE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

