



## The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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February 1, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Office of the Speaker to assist in providing meals to emergency workers**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) and the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council are doing everything they can to assist Navajos families affected by the emergency conditions caused by the inclement weather conditions.

Emergency task force workers continue to work late into the night assisting families with situations caused by the current conditions around the reservation. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) workers are currently operating out of a modular facility called the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) situated at the Navajo Nation Training Center in Window Rock.

In the spirit of teamwork to deliver services to the Navajo people, the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the President and Vice President, and the Navajo Department of Health are teaming up to provide meals to the emergency workers.

Louis Begay, Logistics person with the OEM, said that the donations of meals is greatly appreciated and thanked the Office of the Speaker, the Office of the President and Vice President, and the Department of Health.

Begay said that the 30 to 40 emergency workers will continue to work into the evening today and over the weekend. He explained that the situation has calmed down for now, but they continue to receive assessments from Chapters across the reservation. Additional emergency personnel are situated in Chapter Houses across the reservation as well.

Begay added that the Chapters have been providing the local emergency workers with meals.

Begay had concerns about the distribution of checks to local Chapters, checks that were approved by the Navajo Nation Council on Monday. According to the Office of the Controller, the emergency funds of \$25,000 per Chapter are currently being distributed and Chapters should pick these checks up today. It was noted that Chapter officials or Chapter Coordinators are the only ones authorized to pick up the checks.

Earlier this week, Speaker Morgan announced that the Navajo Nation Council issued a directive to President Shirley, the tribe's Controller, and the Office of Management & Budget to issue the emergency checks as promptly as possible to assist the emergency needs of the Navajo people.

On Thursday, the Navajo Nation President signed the legislation that began the processing of the emergency checks to Chapters.

Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan thanks President Shirley for assisting the check process and he continues to encourage Chapters to work hard to deliver services to the Navajo people.

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker, at (928) 871-7160