



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 11, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253  
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603  
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160  
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Rock Point Chapter declares emergency due to severe flooding**

**Rock Point, Ariz.** – On Wednesday morning, Rock Point Chapter declared an emergency due to heavy rains in surrounding communities which have led to severe flooding and damaged roadways in the rural community, located approximately 50-miles north of Chinle.

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch'izhi) who represents the rural community of approximately 700 people, said the flooding began Tuesday night and left some residents stranded and unable to return to their homes.

“Last night, they got hit hard by the flooding from heavy rains in Lukachukai, Chinle, Round Rock, Wheatfields, Nazlini, and Sawmill,” said Delegate BeGaye, explaining that Rock Point receives much of the rain water from surrounding communities, resulting in downstream flooding.

Although the chapter has received assistance from the Chinle Police Department and Apache County, Delegate BeGaye said he is seeking the help of President Ben Shelly in declaring an emergency on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

“An emergency has to be declared by President Shelly in order to pursue [Federal Emergency Management Agency] funds,” Delegate BeGaye stated.

Rock Point Chapter president Janice Jim, said the chapter is in need of food and water for local residents and for the volunteers who are helping to sandbag the flooded areas.

“The chapter will be open 24/7 tonight and most likely tomorrow,” said Jim. “We have some food and water for tonight, but we don’t have other supplies.”

Jim also noted that the Rock Point Community School was closed on Wednesday due to the flooding, and will likely be closed again on Thursday.

According to Delegate BeGaye, the Rock Point Chapter has one grader that is currently being used to fix damaged roads in the area, and expects additional equipment from the Navajo Division of Transportation to reach the area on Thursday morning.

“We’ve had a lot of residents calling the chapter for assistance,” said Delegate BeGaye. “We need all the help we can get.”

###