



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

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### Iyanbito Chapter: Community members are encouraged to always be prepared for emergencies, chapter officials have no control over weather

*"Iyanbito Chapter has always encouraged families to be prepared for emergencies and for children and grandchildren to assist their parents or grandparents." – Dorothy Rodgers, President for Iyanito Chapter*

**IYANBITO, N.M.** – The Iyanbito Chapter like many other Navajo communities has experienced severe damages to roads and homes as a result of heavy monsoonal rains and has addressed its emergency situations with a coordinated effort.

Iyanbito Chapter officials and staff coordinated efforts with Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, New Mexico State Police, McKinley County Sheriff's Department, Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Division of Health's Community Health Representative Program, and local citizens to assess Iyanbito community to ensure no individual was trapped or in danger from the recent flash flooding.

"Like most other communities, Iyanbito has experienced severe damages to roads and homes during the recent heavy rains," Iyanbito Chapter President Dorothy Rodgers said. "The chapter officials have no control over nature."

"Residents who attend chapter meetings are aware of the procedure to request for assistance for home repairs," Rodgers said. "Our Community Health Representative has a list of high risk clients to monitor to ensure there is no danger but if there is an emergency situation, it is common knowledge to call 911 for immediate services. The chapter does not keep a record of appointments for community members because is the responsibility of the individual."

Iyanbito Chapter officials and staff said the chapter provided emergency relief services utilizing the chapter's backhoe machinery to community members who requested repairs to their road and/or homes.

"Mr. Travis King was appointed in April to reestablish the Iyanbito Emergency Response Team and to develop the Emergency Response Plan, but his efforts to reestablish an emergency response have not happen," Rodgers said. "As a result of his failed efforts he used the local newspaper and other media outlets to blame Iyanbito Chapter officials."

"Iyanbito Chapter has always encouraged families to be prepared for emergencies and for children and grandchildren to assist their parents or grandparent," Rodgers further stated. "The Iyanibito Chapter and officials thank the New Mexico State Police, McKinley County Sheriff's Office, McKinley County Road Department, Navajo Division of Transportation, Speaker Morgan and residents who assisted during our time of need."

Currently, the McKinley County Road Department and Navajo Division of Transportation are continuing to repair work for all roads.

For more information regarding Iyanbito Chapter, please visit [www.iyanbito.nndes.org](http://www.iyanbito.nndes.org).

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