



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT

Public Service Announcement

EFFORTS TO RELIEVE PRESSURE AT CROWNPOINT DAM SUCCESSFUL

Water has been pumped out of the Old PHS Dam and the water levels have lowered. However, flash flood warnings remain for the area and residents are advised to be prepared for more rain until Wednesday.

The dam in the northeast part of town was stabilized due to immediate response from Navajo interagency efforts of Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Water Resources, BIA Eastern Navajo Agency, Navajo Police Department, Crownpoint Fire Department, Department of Emergency Management, Division of Health, Office of the President and the Local Governance Service Committee, Indian Health Service, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority and Navajo Technical University.

The area of concern for flash flooding from the dam is the old hospital housing area and mobile homes north of the Old PHS Dam. Other potential areas of water run-off are Crownpoint Elementary School, NHA Housing, Navajo Technical University, Fleet Management, NTUA sewer lagoons and businesses near NM Hwy 371 and Navajo Route 9.

The Navajo Nation is working with the New Mexico Emergency Operations Center, McKinley County Emergency Management, McKinley County Sheriff's Office and the American Red Cross to provide assistance. We are actively pumping the water out and breaching parts of the dam to relieve pressure. Local volunteers and the New Mexico Department of Corrections are also on scene filling sandbags as quickly as possible.

Emergency Personnel are on-site actively stabilizing and continue to monitor the situation. **At this time we are advised that the dam is stabilized.** Continue to listen to the radio and television for weather updates.

For precautionary measures:

- Please instruct children to stay out of the canals/washes.
- If you are directed by authorities to evacuate your area, please do so.
- Do not attempt to drive across creeks or flooded roads.
- Be prepared and have a Family Emergency Plan and Go-Kit.

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