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Navajo President Shelly Declares State of Emergency After Recent Flooding in Tuba City and Surrounding Communities



TUBA CITY, ARIZ. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed a emergency declaration on Friday for a State of Emergency for Tuba City Chapter and other Western Agency communities after assessing damage first hand yesterday due to increased monsoonal flooding.

The chapter of Tuba City received an abundance of rain on Tuesday afternoon which cause flooding, erosion and land slides in the Tuba City community.

“I assure you that you will receive help to move forward and ensure the safety of the people,” President Shelly stated during a debriefing meeting with the Incident Management Team.

The monsoonal flooding posed a substantial risk to life, and affected public health, infrastructure and property.

Communities on the western portion of the Navajo Nation faced heavy monsoonal rainfall earlier this week,

On Wednesday 86 assessment forms were evaluated with the elderly/ high-risk individuals and road conditions. Thursday brought in 33 more assessment forms. The assessment forms will help determine priority of assistance beginning with the most urgent.

Tuba City Chapter, Navajo Division of Transportation, BIA, Navajo Police Department, Public Health Nurses, CHR, Navajo Rangers are out in the fields doing assessments, delivering medications, and doing welfare checks.

It has been three days since the flooding occurred; President Shelly expressed his disappointment in response time to emergencies.

“We need to improve our communication to respond faster. We need make sure our elderly and children are safe. We have to have roads open and accessible. I am not happy with how long it took to respond. We need to act faster.” President Shelly stated.

Along with an emergency declaration, President Shelly signed a memorandum that directs all of the executive branch divisions to provide assistance to the Incident Management Team designated to access and mitigate the situation that has occurred within Tuba City and surrounding communities.

“Let use come together to assist one another. K’e unites us and we need to unite together in times of emergencies. Lets take care of one another.” Shelly stated.

The State of Emergency declaration will be in effect until further notice.



President Shelly toured areas affected by the floods. He toured the areas on Thursday.

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