



Asaayi Lake Fire donation center locations established for contributions



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, and flew over the fire on Tuesday. Pictured here was their briefing at the Window Rock High School Field House. They are standing with council delegate Roscoe Smith... (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Donation centers have been established for the Asaayi Lake Fire.

Since the start of the fire, community members have been coming forward with donations of water, food and personal hygiene packages. The donated items have been distributed to the chapters affected by the fire, especially for the displaced residents.

“Ahe’hee to our Navajo people, tribal programs and the general public that have donated items to assist with this fire disaster,” said Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly.

He expressed appreciation and commended the tenacity and generous nature of Navajo people and programs that contributed items for the fire evacuees.

“This fire is a sad event for many families and communities, but to see the way Navajo people coalesced to help in the effort was very encouraging and a testament to our resilience as a people,” President Shelly said. “We must work together.”

Items needed for the donation drive include hand sanitizer, baby wipes, vinyl gloves, hand soap, shampoo, toothpaste,

toothbrushes, food, and water. Please check the expiration date on non-perishable food items before donating.

The Southwest Incident Management Team emphasized that no cash donations have been solicited from the public, including businesses and organizations. Instead, all monetary donations should go to the American Red Cross.

Utilization of the Red Cross eliminates the potential for fraudulent donation drives solicitation of monetary donations from fraudulent organizations.

The following information listing is for personnel assisting with the donation drive:

Donations: Coleen Bitsie at 505-263-1061

American Red Cross: Cassandra Roybal at 505-262-6175 or Michael Anaya-Gorman at 505-870-8303 or email michael.anayagorman@redcross.org

Media Permits: 928-871-7826

Wildfire Call Center: 928-871-8416 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Donated Items for Evacuees:
Ft. Defiance Chapter at 928-729-4352

Tohatchi High School Gym
John Brooks at 505-290-1628 or Craig Brooks at 505-870-0490

Newcomb School
505-368-5150 or 505-608-0449

Shiprock Chapter at 505-406-7269

Sheep Springs Chapter at 505-732-5408

Crystal Chapter at 505-777-2800

Information: Fire Information at 928-362-1482 or www.redcross.org/newmexico

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