



## THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: CHANDLER WILLIE  
DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
CELL – 928-206-9824  
cwillie@opvp.org

# Broken Dam in Tsaile, Ariz., causes evacuation of residents on the South Rim of Chinle Wash in Chinle, Ariz.

**CHINLE, Ariz** – An Earth made dam, located 12 miles south of Tsaile, Ariz., has given way to heavy rainfall on Tuesday afternoon, August 3rd.

Due to the broken dam, officials have evacuated the south rim of the Chinle Wash from the bridge at the National Park Service Visitor Center to Chinle Wash and Nazlini Wash junction.

“It is strongly recommended that people living in low lying areas find shelter with family, relatives or friends for the next few days,” said Incident Commander Harlan Cleveland.

Chinle Community Center is specified as the temporary shelter for evacuees. At present, there are currently 53 evacuees.

Brenda Hatalthie with the Navajo Nation Safety of Dams has reported that the Tsaile and Wheatfields Dams are intact. Refuting unofficial reports stating that the Tsaile and Wheatfields dams have also been broken. These claims have been spread through unofficial sources and text messages. Therefore urging officials to accept exclusive reports from the Incident Command Center at Chinle High School Wildcat Den.

A 16 person team at the Incident Command Center are on high alert and have termed the incident as “Operation Down Pour.”

Officials have rated the incident as a 4 on a scale of 1 to 10.

There has been a report of a troop of girl scouts camping out in the canyon. Search and Rescue has made contact with the troop and they are currently being evacuated.

*“It is strongly recommended that people living in low lying areas find shelter with family, relatives or friends for the next few days,” said Incident Commander Harlan Cleveland.*

Due to the extreme weather forecasted for the week Officials advise that the public take necessary precaution and warn the public to stay clear of any washes or flooded areas.

#### Resources include:

Apache County District One Roads,  
Apache County Sheriff's Office,  
Chinle Police District,  
Chinle IHS Security,  
Chinle Unified School District Security,  
Chinle Fire Department,  
Chinle Emergency Medical Service,  
Red Cross has set up the temporary shelter at Chinle Community Center.

#### Personnel:

Incident Commander: Harlan Cleveland  
Operations Section Chief: Sergeant Alfreda Wagner  
Planning Section Chief: Sergeant Emmet Yazzie  
Finance/ Logistics: Vernelle Shirley  
Liaison: Ernest Yazzie  
Press Information Officer: Chandler Willie

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