



THE NAVAJO NATION

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OPERATION 2010 SNOWFALL

Lupton Chapter Uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command Structure (ICS) to Organize Relief Efforts

Window Rock, AZ; February 5, 2010 – While there were struggles to assist people who are high risk during “Operation 2010 Snowfall” there are some success stories. A well organized approach and pre-planning by Lupton Chapter Officials made the weather emergency relief much easier.

Chapter Secretary Regan Hawthorne, explained that the Incident Command System (ICS) concept isn’t seen or understood by the people, but they appreciate the end result. Hawthorne also recommended that perhaps the relief efforts be done in a shorter time period.

As the recent storm approached, the chapter held preparedness meetings and established a warehouse for supplies purchased with chapter funds. PEP workers were hired to help stock. Sign in sheets and forms were utilized to keep an accurate record of the help and supplies. Supplies for sale were kept separate from the donated items and posted.

Lupton Chapter established several phases to provide assistance to community members; Phase One was for the elderly, Phase Two was for Single Parents, Phase Three was for the local people of the chapter. Deliveries were made to high risk community members by using an organized process.

There were still some issues the chapter had to deal with such as the continual request for assistance and the richness of the hay received through donations.

Lupton Chapter officials recommend the NIMS -ICS System as an organized approach to handle emergencies at all levels of emergency response.

Chapter President Jackie Yazzie Jr. expressed appreciation to the Community Service Coordinator, Grazing Official, all Chapter Officials, volunteers and the Emergency Operation Center for helping the people of Lupton, Houck and Nahatadzil Chapters.

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