



# THE NAVAJO NATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FEMA Begins Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments**

**Window Rock, AZ; April 20, 2010** – Officials from Navajo Nation Chapters in Arizona met with FEMA Representatives to share information about federal disaster assistance. The sharing of information began with a Public Assistance Application Briefing in the morning, followed with a FEMA Kick-Off Meeting at 1 p.m. in Parrish Hall of the St. Michaels Catholic Church.

FEMA Representatives will work with 47 chapters on the Arizona side of the Navajo Reservation. These chapters are located within the areas that received heavy snowfall. The Kick-Off meeting begins a 60 day clock up to June 19<sup>th</sup> during which information will be gathered for Public Assistance on all the damages from the winter storm. President Barack Obama signed a major disaster declaration March 18, 2010 for parts of Arizona, including the Navajo Nation. The declaration number is FEMA-DR-1888-AZ. The focus is the snow storm damages that occurred within the incident period of January 18 to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management Program Projects Specialist, Johnny Johnson, said, “DEM will be coordinating the preliminary damage assessments, chapter visits will be on a random schedule with FEMA Representatives collecting data to qualify projects for funds.” Johnson asked the chapter for maps of the damage sites and stressed documents be made available in duplicate for purchases made in response to the winter emergency.

FEMA’S Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments will include damages to Navajo Nation owned facilities such as Chapter Houses, Navajo Nation and BIA Roads, Senior Citizen Centers, Headstart facilities, warehouses and water sources.

FEMA visits will begin on Thursday, April 22, 2010.  
For more information you can contact Johnny Johnson at (505) 979-1263.

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