

## RELEASE DATE

January 19, 2023



## MEDIA CONTACT

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## Navajo Nation declares severe winter snow storms state of emergency at request of President Nygren, executive branch employees issued delayed start

**WINDOW ROCK, Navajo Nation** — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren committed to signing a declaration of a state of emergency for the Navajo Nation due to severe winter snow storms. He received an electronic copy of the declaration Thursday evening following a Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management meeting on the recent weather impacts.

“We have deployed Division of Transportation resources to work alongside chapter and county resources to address the immediate needs of our Defiance Plateau communities earlier today,” said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. “This declaration will further open up Navajo Nation resources at the local levels so the current response can be improved.”

The Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety’s command staff have begun standing up an emergency operations center that will provide additional staffing. The operational period for the response will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

The declaration covers current and potential impacts from heavy snow, high winds, mud and flooding events from recent and forecasted weather. The declaration allows for additional Navajo Nation public safety personnel to be deployed starting tomorrow morning.

Current forecasts for the region include additional winter snow followed by single-digit overnight temperatures.

“We ask everyone to reach out to their relatives and loved ones to make sure they’re prepared,” said President Nygren. The Nygren Administration urges caution when traveling and to plan trips outside of severe weather, if possible.

A two-hour delayed start was also approved for Navajo Nation Executive Branch employees for Friday morning by President Nygren due to projected snowfall overnight.

The public may contact (505) 371-8301 beginning Friday morning for operational updates on the response.

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**DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
**RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

**The Navajo Nation | Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees**

**CEM 23-01-19**

**RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION  
COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO SEVERE WINTER SNOW STORMS AND  
SUBSEQUENT MUD FROM SNOW MELT CREATING POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS ACROSS THE  
NAVAJO NATION**

**WHEREAS:**

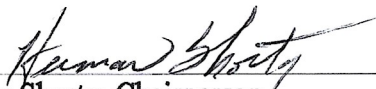
1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 881, the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management. The Commission is authorized to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 883, (A) and (C) the Commission in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management is empowered to coordinate emergency and disaster relief services by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities and to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 884 (B) (2), the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. Communities within the Navajo Nation are experiencing impacts from the severe inclement winter weather conditions, including, but not limited to, heavy snow, high winds, significant mud conditions and flooding, particularly impacting residents living in isolated and remote locations of the Navajo Nation; and
5. Due to potential impacts and substantial public health and safety from severe winter snow storms and subsequent mud conditions resulting from snow melt that creates potential public safety risks across the Navajo Nation; and
6. Any or all initial response(s) are first at the local level. However, communication and coordination are to be established for effective response(s); and
7. It is necessary and crucial to ensure public health and safety issues are addressed through adequate assessments, establishment of priorities, communication, safety measures, coordination, and use of appropriate resources to mobilize relief efforts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to severe inclement winter weather conditions, including, but not limited to, heavy snow, high winds, significant mud conditions and flooding, particularly impacting residents living in isolated and remote locations of the Navajo Nation; and
2. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said declared State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Navajo Nation; and
3. Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby finds it necessary and crucial to address the needs of the Navajo Nation through adequate assessments, establishment of priorities, communications, safety measures, coordination, and use of appropriate resources to mobilize relief and mitigate further threats to human lives and safety; and
4. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management finds it necessary for responsible Navajo Nation entities to immediately begin and maintain coordination for use of resources to meet the needs of all communities; and
5. The Navajo Nation activate available emergency resources such as funding to cover personnel, equipment, and other means as determined fit and feasible to restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.

**CERTIFICATION**

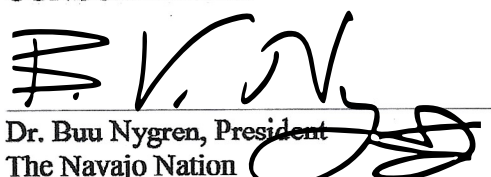
We hereby certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management in a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 19th day of January 2023.

  
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Herman Shorty, Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion: Ben Bennett

Second: Dicky Bain

**CONCURRENCE:**

  
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Dr. Buu Nygren, President  
The Navajo Nation

  
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Richelle Montoya, Vice President  
The Navajo Nation




**DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*  
**RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

**The Navajo Nation | Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Navajo Nation Executive Branch  
*Division, Program, & Department Employees*

**FROM:**   
Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

**DATE:** January 19, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Two (2) Hour Winter Weather Delay

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This memorandum serves as an official notification that all Navajo Nation Executive Branch employees, permanent and temporary, are granted **two (2) hours of Administrative Leave** from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023.

Due to winter weather road conditions, we will be on a two-hour delay to ensure our employees are able to travel safely to their worksites. Drive carefully and notify proper authorities of any emergencies that may occur due to this weather. Essential service workers, first responders, and other emergency personnel will continue to follow their regular schedules, unless arrangements are made with an immediate supervisor.

Please check on our elderly and our vulnerable relatives to ensure they are in a warm place, are safe, and have the necessary supplies during this winter season. Should you have immediate questions, please contact Chief of Staff Patrick Sandoval at (928) 871-7000. Thank you.

**XC:** *Legislative Branch*  
*Judicial Branch*  
*OPVP File*