



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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NDOT crews continue to clear roadways to make routes passable and accessible



PHOTO: Navajo Division of Transportation crew repairs a washed-out road in the community of Torreon, N.M.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Division of Transportation continues to deploy work crews and heavy equipment to various communities across the Navajo Nation to clear mud and to restore roads to allow residents access to and from their homes.

NDOT Executive Director Garret Silversmith stated that crews are working long hours to respond as quickly as possible to the high volume of requests from chapters, residents, and Council Delegates for road repairs and that the immediate priority is to make routes passable for community members. The crews will return to those areas and make additional repairs after they are able to provide timely relief for roads that are in immediate need of repair.

“We prayed for rain and our prayers have been answered. With that, comes some challenges that are being addressed. The Navajo Division of Transportation has been working around the clock since the flooding began and they are working quickly and making good progress. The Navajo Department of Health also has Community Health Representatives on the ground checking on elders at their homes and making sure they have what they need. We have to remember that it’s

also our personal responsibility to check on our parents and grandparents to make sure they are taken care of. So, please check on your elders and make sure they have food, water, medication, and all of their essential needs. I also want to thank all of the county officials, the BIA, and many others who are working together to help our communities,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

As of Tuesday, NDOT crews have cleared washed out dirt roads or are in the process of mobilizing resources to clear roads within the communities of Tohatchi, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Pine Springs, Torreon, Ojo Encino, Burnt Corn, Pinon, Whippoorwill, Tselani/Cottonwood, Many Farms, Rock Springs, Becenti, Tohajilee, Casamero Lake, Dilkon, Indian Wells, Coyote Canyon, Nahata Dziil, Wide Ruins, Twin Lakes, Dennehotso, Tonalea, Tófikán, Red Mesa, Aneth, and Teecnospos. NDOT, BIA, and counties continue to conduct road repairs in other chapters as well.

In a few areas such as Tachee/Blue Gap, NDOT was unable to complete repairs due to heavy mud that made the area inaccessible, but crews will return later this week to complete repairs.

“Rain is in the weather forecasts for parts of the Navajo Nation this week, so please be careful and do not enter flooded areas on foot or by vehicle. Our land is in great need of moisture, but we also need to be alert and use caution when we travel. We are very thankful to everyone who is on the ground to repair roads, to check on our elders, and to make sure we are doing everything possible to help our Navajo people,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

President Nez will visit heavily impacted areas on Wednesday, to offer his support and assistance to residents and local leaders. The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President and the Navajo Division of Transportation will continue coordinating with county officials, chapter officials, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and state emergency officials to provide additional resources and updates.

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