



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

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**President Nez commends Emergency Management officials, CHR's,
Chapter officials, and others for providing relief to elders in flooded areas**



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Community Health Representative talk with Birdsprings resident, Otis Thompson, at his home as Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management officials deliver food, water, and other essential items in Birdsprings, Ariz. on July 28, 2021.

BIRDSPRINGS, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez visited the community of Tsidi To ii, also known as Birdsprings, Ariz. on Wednesday, to support and assist the Birdsprings Chapter Incident Command Center, Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, Community Health Representatives, Navajo County Supervisor Alberto Peshlakai, and Coconino County with the delivery of food, water, and other essential items to the homes of several families who are unable to leave their homes due to recent heavy rainfall that has led to flooding in certain areas.

President Nez accompanied Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management Director Harland Cleveland and his staff and local Community Health Representatives, as they used utility

task vehicles and four-wheel ATV's to navigate through flooded areas to reach the homes of several residents to deliver food items, bottled water, and other resources. The CHR's have checked on local residents since the flooding began last weekend. Wednesday's visits allowed the CHR's to check on the elderly residents in-person and to offer the opportunity for them to temporarily relocate if needed.

"Since the heavy rainfall began flooding areas in Birdsprings over the weekend, there's been very good collaboration and response from the Birdsprings Incident Command Center, Emergency Management, the CHR's, Navajo County, NDOT, and many others. Many of the homes are located in flood plain areas and residents have experienced flooding in the past. With more rainfall in the forecast, the CHR's have offered many residents the opportunity to relocate to other sites temporarily, but so far, none of the residents have taken the offer. Being out in the community with them today, I got to see their dedication and commitment firsthand. These men and women are out on the frontlines everyday helping our people and their work often goes unnoticed. I thank them for their hard work as we continue to support our Navajo people," said President Nez.

Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith also joined President Nez to see several damaged dirt roads, some of which have been closed off due to heavy flooding. Director Silversmith said that NDOT continues to deploy heavy equipment and personnel to various communities across the Navajo Nation to clear mud and to restore roads to allow residents access to and from their homes. However, in some areas the water levels are too high to allow workers to safely conduct repairs. Once water levels subside, work crews will be able to clear the roads for residents.

President Nez also met briefly with Council Delegate Thomas Walker, Jr., who represents the Birdsprings community as a member of the Navajo Nation Council, to receive additional updates and to offer support for the residents and community officials.

"We know that many communities are in need of assistance and we want them to know that NDOT, Division of Community Development, DEM, the CHR's, and others are moving to provide help as quickly as possible. If you have elderly parents or grandparents, please check on them and make sure they are safe, but please be safe and do not enter flooded areas by foot or vehicle. The moisture we are receiving is a blessing for our people, but we have to support each other as we respond to certain situations," added President Nez.

If chapters need assistance with response efforts, please send an email the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development at MonsoonRelief@NavajoChapters.org. The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Division of Transportation, and Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management 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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