



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declares state of emergency to free up additional resources as more rainfall expected

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declared a state of emergency on Monday, due to increased flooding caused by the recent monsoon rains within the Navajo Nation. The declaration will allow local chapters to access additional resources to help mitigate the impacts of heavy rainfall.

The Commission on Emergency Management strongly recommends that all Navajo Nation entities implement their emergency response plans and funding. Flooding increases risks of property damage, loss of life, impacts to public health, safety, and community infrastructure damage.

“Enacting the state of emergency enables local officials to work more efficiently and effectively to ensure that affected communities have access to necessary resources and services. Our emergency response personnel have been out in the communities seven days a week helping people recover from recent flooding. Yes, there are many challenges and not enough personnel to get to every site immediately, but they are making progress. The Navajo Division of Transportation also continues to work on repairs to roads that were damaged. We recommend all Navajo households, communities, and organizations be prepared as we continue to see scattered thunderstorms throughout the Navajo Nation this week. As we move forward into the fall and winter seasons, we need everyone to be proactive and plan ahead for more severe weather,” said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Community Health Representatives and Public Health Nurses, under the Navajo Department of Health, have been on the ground in various communities providing support and assistance for elderly residents and those with health conditions. They continue to go door to door checking on high-risk residents.

A flood watch will remain in effect for the entire Navajo Nation throughout the week. If chapters need assistance with response efforts, please email the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development at MonsoonRelief@NavajoChapters.org.

“With more rainfall forecasted over the next few days, we want to lean forward in providing as many resources possible to assist those affected. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide assistance. Please be prepared and ensure that your family and elders have essential items such as food, water, and firewood during severe weather conditions. This shows that when everyone comes together, we can keep each other and our communities safe,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

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 officials to provide additional resources and updates.

Weather-related information is available through the National Weather Service website at: <https://www.weather.gov/>.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM 22-08-01

RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO INCREASED FLOODING AND FLASH FLOODING FROM RECENT MONSOONAL RAINS WHEREBY POSING A SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO PROPERTY DAMAGE, LOSS OF LIFE, SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECOMMENDS THAT ALL BRANCHES OF THE NAVAJO NATION BEGIN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THEIR RESPECTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSES AND EMERGENCY FUNDS PURSUANT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EMERGENCY PLANS.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 881 and 883 (A) (C), the Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management to coordinate emergency and disaster relief service by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management; and to recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation or other appropriate activity regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 884 (B) (1), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management is responsible for declaring a state of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 884 (B) (2), the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management will assist in seeking assistance from federal, state, and other tribal governments, local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The current and continued drought conditions in the Southwest, including the Navajo Nation, combined with recent monsoonal events, have posed continued and substantial risk of flooding, flash flooding, threats to public health and safety, potential impacts to critical facilities, deterred access to vital community infrastructure and services, property, transportation networks; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declares a state of emergency due to increased flooding and flash flooding from recent monsoonal rains whereby posing a substantial risk to property damage, loss of life, significant impact to public health, safety, community infrastructure, and recommends that all branches of the Navajo Nation begin planning and implementing their respective emergency responses and emergency funds pursuant to their respective emergency plans. Additionally, the current and continued Drought conditions in the Southwest, including the Navajo Nation, are such that pose substantial risk to incidents of flooding and flash flooding; and

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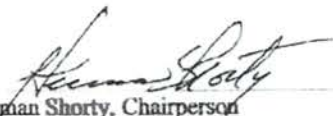
JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



2. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management finds it necessary for appropriate Navajo Nation entities to continue and/or immediately begin and maintain coordination and collaboration with relevant agencies for use of resources and continuing to seek solutions to meet the needs of the Navajo Nation public; and
3. The Navajo Nation shall activate available emergency resources such as community education, assistance, 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 at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present that the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 1st day of August, 2022.


Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management
Navajo Nation

Motion: Dicky Bain
Second: Ben Bennett

CONCURRENCE:


JONATHAN NEZ, President
THE NAVAJO NATION


MYRON LIZER, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION