



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officials scale down Operation Downpour as water levels recede

CHINLE, Ariz – After 36 hours of a collaborative multi-agency effort, Operation Downpour is scaling down and the incident command post has been transferred from Chinle High School's Wild Cat Den to the Chinle Police Department.

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Yesterday crews were out all day taking assessments of the washes, arroyos, road conditions and water levels. At 12:53 pm the first operational period Incident Commander Harlan Cleveland went on a fly over of the entire affected area with Channel 7 News from Albuquerque and reported that conditions are stable.

Yesterday at a 5:00 pm briefing, a Navajo Nation Safety of Dams official reiterated that the Tsaile Dam is still intact despite unofficial reports stating otherwise. The official said they will continue to siphon water levels throughout the weekend until the water level is below the restriction level.

Officials stressed that the safety and health of residents are the main concern and that they will remain on alert and continue to monitor the conditions of the weather, roads, water levels and dams.

The various agencies are prepared to put Operation Downpour back into full operation should the need arise.

Rainfall is expected to continue throughout the week. Road conditions will continue to be a matter of concern.

One reported road closure due to flash flooding was reported between milepost 14 and 15 near Rough Rock, Ariz.

Emergency personnel would also like residents living near low-lying areas to be prepared in the event of a flood or evacuation to take a few items for overnight stay at a shelter or relatives home.

Recommended items for at least a 72 hour period:

- Extra Clothes
- Water
- Hygiene Kit
- Medication info or supplies
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlights, extra batteries
- Waterproof matches
- First Aid Kit
- Portable Radio
- Cell Phone
- Food- snacks
- Important family documents
- Multi-purpose tool i.e. Leatherman or Gerber

Due to the extreme weather forecasted for the week Officials advise that the public take necessary precaution and to stay clear of any washes, arroyos or flooded areas.

Vehicle operators and pedestrians are urged not to cross any flooded roads or pathways. Officials ask that the public keep in touch with family members and to remind one another to avoid floodwaters.

Contact information:

Chinle Police Department (928) 674-2111
(928) 674-2112
(928) 674-2115

Resources include:

Apache County District One Roads,
Apache County Sheriff's Office,
Chinle Police District,
Chinle IHS Security,
Chinle Unified School District Security,
Chinle Fire Department,
Chinle Emergency Medical Service,
Red Cross has set up the temporary shelter at Chinle
Community Center.
BIA Fire Department

Personnel:

First Operational period Incident Commander: Harlan
Cleveland
Second Operational period Incident Commander:
Sergeant Dean Hadley
Operations Section Chief: Sergeant Alfreda Wagner
Planning Section Chief: Sergeant Emmet Yazzie
Finance/ Logistics: Vernelle Shirley
Liaison: Ernest Yazzie
Press Information Officer: Chandler Willie

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