



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
nlnb.communications@gmail.com

Legislative Branch assists families impacted by severe weather conditions

WINDOW ROCK – Following the declaration of emergency by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management on March 5, the Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker collaborated with the Department of Emergency Management to provide Navajo families assistance with food, water, blankets and other essential items due to severe weather conditions.

President Ben Shelly signed the declaration of emergency on Thursday, which enabled chapters to also use their emergency funds to assist community members.

“The Office of the Speaker and members of Council received requests for assistance for families that were impacted one way or another by weather conditions,” said Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

Speaker Bates also thanked members of Council for helping their communities and assisting with the coordination of supplies and distribution.

Personnel from the legislative branch, executive branch, and a number of chapters worked over the weekend to provide care packages for approximately 80 families, particularly those living in isolated areas, which were stranded due to excessive snow, flooding, and many who experienced extensive power outages.

As of Saturday afternoon, DEM had received 61 incident reports from various chapters across the Navajo Nation’s five agencies and expected more reports to be filed through the weekend.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi’i’áhi/To’Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz’t’l’í) on Monday confirmed that her constituents who were impacted had received the care packages.

“I want to thank the Office of the Speaker, the executive branch, and the chapters for working together to bring immediate relief,” said Delegate Crotty.

According to DEM director Rosalita Whitehair, many reports were issued regarding damaged roads and a few that had been deemed impassable due to flooding, heavy snow, mud, and excessive rainfall.

Whitehair expressed her appreciation to those who volunteered their time and resources to help the families including the Navajo Nation Council, Office of the Speaker, Office of the President and

Vice President, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Department of Health, Navajo Division of Transportation, Red Cross, the Office of the Controller and states and counties.

#

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, search for keywords: Navajo Nation Council