



The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2025

Commission on Emergency Management supports presidential signing of 2025 Winter Emergency Declaration

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) supports Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren’s recent signing of Resolution No. CEM25-002, that declares a state of emergency to implement preemptive measures addressing the ongoing and anticipated impacts of severe winter snowstorms and subsequent snowmelt.

“It’s important that we keep our people safe during these tough winter months. Signing the 2025 Winter Emergency Declaration helps us get ready for what’s coming, so we can protect our communities from the impacts of snow and melt,” said President Nygren. “We’re working closely with the Commission on Emergency Management to make sure we have the resources we need to get through this season together.”

This resolution was approved and certified during a special meeting of the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) on Feb. 20. During this meeting, the CEM deactivated Resolution No. 24-01-11, the 2023 Winter Weather Emergency Declaration, and approved CEM25-002, an updated Winter Weather Emergency Declaration aimed at mitigating current winter weather impacts.

The decision to deactivate Resolution CEM24-01-11 was based on concerns regarding the timeframe of the weather-related conditions outlined in the resolution. Commissioners emphasized the importance of affiliated departments and divisions moving forward with compiling close-out reports to detail how emergency funds were utilized, ensuring that these reports are finalized promptly.

CEM Vice Chair Eugenia Quintana recommended that the Commission reassess the severity of the conditions described in the 2023 emergency declaration to determine whether the emergency situation has lessened.

Through the enactment of CEM25-002, the Commission has declared a Winter State of Emergency to prepare for the anticipated impacts of snowmelt, which annually pose significant public health and safety risks across the Navajo Nation. This declaration authorizes the allocation of critical resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding, to safeguard the well-being of citizens throughout the Navajo Nation.

“The Commission worked with the Department of Emergency Management to assess and deactivate the 2023 Winter Weather Emergency Declaration. Based on this, the Commission implemented an updated emergency declaration to prepare and mobilize resources to protect the Navajo people through the end of the winter season,” said CEM Chair Marcarlo Roanhorse.

“The declaration was modified to better meet the needs at the local chapter governance level and provide the Nation with a clear closing date. This adjustment reduces confusion and gives chapters a realistic understanding of when declarations start and end, helping prepare for severe snowstorms, winter melt, muddy roads, and freezing pipes.”

The 2025 Winter Emergency Declaration will be reassessed in April 2025 and will automatically expire on April 30, 2025, unless extended through further action by the Commission.

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