



The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2025

CONTACT:
Marcarlo Roanhorse
marcarloroanhorse@navajo-nsn.gov

**Commission on Emergency Management declares localized
state of emergency for Birdsprings and Dennehotso Chapters**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, President Buu Nygren signed a localized state of emergency for the Birdsprings and Dennehotso Chapters following approval by the Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) during a special meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 14. The declaration addresses significant flooding impacts caused by Hurricane Priscilla, Hurricane Raymond, and seasonal monsoonal storms.

CEM Chair Marcarlo Roanhorse said that Resolution No. CEM 25-011 strengthens chapter-level authority by allowing chapter leadership to direct funds where they are most needed.

“These types of storms happen on a yearly basis and historically, we provide resources to alleviate these emergencies,” said Chair Roanhorse. “In these situations, life safety is the number one priority. This resolution opens the door to recovery and critical financial reimbursements.”

Between Oct. 10 and 14, the Western Navajo Agency experienced heavy rainfall that resulted in torrential flooding, washed-out roads, water damage to homes and infrastructure, and immediate threats to health and safety.

During the meeting, Department of Emergency Management Acting Director Edmund Tso provided a situational report noting that both Birdsprings and Dennehotso Chapters experienced residential flooding and damage to critical infrastructure.

Regarding Dennehotso, Tso said, “Water eroded a paved road that is under construction. Homes have been flooded and three dams located above a watershed have given way.”

Chair Roanhorse visited Birdsprings Chapter on Monday to assess damages and reported that one family used a boat to reach safety.

“Flooding has caused significant damage in the Western Agency, and we need to deploy more resources to the area,” Roanhorse said.

Tso reported that flooding affected 28 families in Birdsprings and nine families in Dennehotso.

The resolution authorizes affected chapters to access Chapter Emergency Funds to address urgent life-safety and health-related needs, including shelter for displaced families, food and water distribution, and assistance for vulnerable populations.

“The Commission of Emergency Management thanks all agencies and officials who helped address community concerns and emergency situations,” said Chair Roanhorse. “The Commission will continue to assess impacts throughout the Navajo Nation and stands ready to assist.”

The localized declaration will remain in effect for 90 days or until extended by the Commission on Emergency Management.

###