

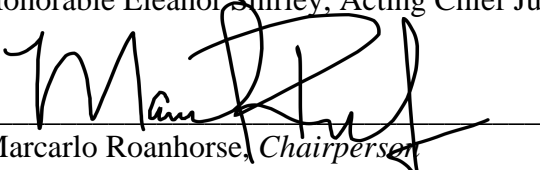


The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Dr. Buu V. Nygren, Navajo Nation President
Honorable Richelle Montoya, Navajo Nation Vice President
Honorable Crystalayne Curley, *Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council*
Honorable 25th Navajo Nation Council
Honorable Eleanor Shirley, Acting Chief Justice

FROM: 
Marcarlo Roanhorse, *Chairperson*
Commission on Emergency Management
The Navajo Nation

DATE: April 15, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Navajo Nation Council Spring Session Report

This memorandum provides a formal report to the Navajo Nation leadership summarizing the activities of the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM), including progress on the Plan of Operations, intergovernmental coordination, legislative oversight, and collaboration efforts conducted during the reporting period.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Commission on Emergency Management is actively working to update its Plan of Operations (POO) to reflect current emergency management needs and improve coordination across all levels of government.

- A draft Plan of Operations has been developed and is under active review by the Commission;
- A final draft is anticipated for submission to the Office of Legislative Counsel for legal sufficiency review;
- Upon completion of legal review, the Commission will seek legislative approval through the appropriate standing committees.

The Commission is also working to strengthen the Plan of Operations through:

- Development of an Appendix section to include standardized definitions and operational guidance;
- Inclusion of a secondary cost plan framework to improve cost tracking, documentation, and FEMA reimbursement eligibility; and
- Incorporation of language to provide clearer guidance to Chapters regarding:
 - Emergency declarations;
 - Access to Chapter Emergency Funds; and
 - Alignment with Title 26 emergency management provisions.

Recommendations related to these updates have been shared with the Resources and Development Committee to support broader legislative alignment.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION – STATE OF NEW MEXICO

The Commission engaged with leadership from the State of New Mexico, including Senator George Muñoz, representatives from the Governor’s Office, and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), to strengthen coordination and establish working relationships.

Discussion included:

- Coordination of emergency declaration processes across tribal, state, and federal systems;
- Expansion of training opportunities for Chapters, particularly in FEMA processes and requirements;
- Identification of challenges related to grant funding, reimbursement, and administrative processes;
- Opportunities to support emergency management capacity, including potential funding for personnel;
- Improvement of emergency communication systems and alert coordination;
- Infrastructure and hazard mitigation planning, including roads and flood control; and
- Coordination with multiple FEMA regions impacting the Navajo Nation.

As a result of these engagements, the Commission established points of contact with state partners and identified opportunities for continued collaboration, training, and technical assistance.

COLLABORATION WITH MMDR TASK FORCE AND ALERT SYSTEM

On March 10, 2026, the Commission participated in a meeting with the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force to address issues related to the Navajo Nation emergency alert system.

Identified issues included:

- The alert system has been inactive since October 2025;
- Contract expiration and outstanding payments exceeding \$100,000;
- Lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities for system management;
- Need for improved accountability, training, and public awareness.

The Commission committed to:

- Supporting efforts to expedite implementation and funding of the alert system;
- Assisting in the development of a fund management plan, if needed;
- Working with the Department of Emergency Management, Navajo Nation Police Department, and MMDR Task Force to improve coordination and system activation; and
- Supporting long-term sustainability of emergency communication systems.

LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

The Commission, in coordination with the Department of Emergency Management, provided a report to the Law and Order Committee regarding Resolution CEM-25-010 and Resolution CEM-25-011.

Incident Overview

CEM-25-010 – Utah Tornadoes

- Two tornadoes (EFU and EF2) impacted the Aneth, Utah area;
- One home destroyed and two homes damaged;
- Three families displaced, with ongoing recovery for one household;
- Approximately \$272,000 in emergency expenditures submitted for federal consideration.

CEM-25-011 – Flooding

- Severe flooding impacted Birdsprings and Dennehotso Chapters;
- Road damage, dam failures, and water rescue operations occurred;
- Identified gaps in training, coordination, and administrative processes.

Committee Discussion

Discussion with the Law and Order Committee included:

- FEMA damage thresholds (approximately \$100,000);
- Documentation requirements for federal reimbursement;
- Use of Chapter Emergency Funds; and
- Challenges in accessing federal assistance.

The Commission emphasized the importance of accurate documentation, training, and coordination to improve response and reimbursement outcomes.

Commission Role

The Commission clarified its role as a coordination and oversight body that:

- Supports emergency management coordination;
- Provides recommendations to Navajo Nation leadership;
- Serves as a liaison with external partners; and
- Assists in elevating local emergencies for federal consideration.

Committee Direction

The Law and Order Committee requested:

- Follow-up reporting, including the Commission's Plan of Operations;
- Review of CD-68-89 (establishing legislation); and
- Clarification on the use of Utah Navajo Trust Fund resources for disaster-related repairs.

CONCLUSION

During the Spring Session reporting period, the Commission on Emergency Management focused on advancing its Plan of Operations, strengthening intergovernmental coordination, supporting emergency communication initiatives, and continuing legislative engagement.

The Commission will continue to prioritize completion of its Plan of Operations, enhance coordination with partner agencies, and support efforts to improve emergency management systems across the Navajo Nation.