

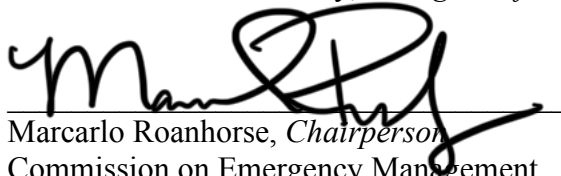


The Navajo Nation
Commission on Emergency Management



M E M O R A N D U M

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: July 16, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session Report

This memorandum provides a formal report to Navajo Nation leadership summarizing the activities and accomplishments of the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) during the Third Quarter (April through June 2026). During this reporting period, the Commission focused on strengthening emergency preparedness, implementing recently enacted legislation, modernizing emergency management policies, supporting Chapter emergency planning, advancing drought mitigation efforts, and improving coordination with Navajo Nation divisions, Chapters, and state and federal partners.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Commission continued its comprehensive review and modernization of its Plan of Operations to better align with current emergency management standards and Navajo Nation law.

During the reporting period, Commissioners:

- Continued reviewing proposed revisions to the Commission's governing document.
- Refined Commission authority, emergency declaration procedures, and operational responsibilities.
- Developed an Appendix containing standardized emergency management definitions.
- Continued development of a Secondary Cost Plan framework to improve disaster cost documentation and FEMA reimbursement eligibility.
- Added recommendations strengthening Chapter emergency declaration authority and coordination with the Department of Emergency Management.
- Continued coordinating proposed amendments with the Office of Legislative Counsel before legislative consideration.

The updated Plan of Operations will provide greater consistency in emergency management operations, improve accountability, and strengthen coordination among the Commission, Department of Emergency Management, Chapters, and partner agencies.

CHAPTER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

One of the Commission's primary priorities this quarter was assisting with implementation of Resolution CMA-20-26, which appropriated approximately \$6 million to support emergency preparedness activities for all 110 Navajo Nation Chapters.

During the May 12 Regular Meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the Administrative Service Centers regarding implementation of the legislation and clarified that:

- Chapters are not required to obtain a Commission emergency declaration before utilizing emergency preparedness funds.
- Chapters may authorize expenditures through Chapter Resolution and approved Spending Implementation Plans.
- Emergency preparedness should occur year round rather than only after disasters occur.
- Funding should be strategically managed throughout the fiscal year to prepare for drought, wildfire, monsoon flooding, winter weather, and other localized emergencies.

The Commission further recommended that:

- Administrative Service Centers issue standardized written guidance to all 110 Chapters.
- DEM and ASC jointly provide technical assistance regarding hazard mitigation, emergency planning, ICS training, and FEMA documentation.
- Chapter Emergency Operations Plans be verified and maintained for immediate access during emergencies.

The Commission reaffirmed that preparedness begins at the Chapter level and that local governments remain the first line of emergency response throughout the Navajo Nation.

2026 DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

On June 9, 2026, the Commission unanimously adopted Resolution CEM 26-003, declaring a 2026 Navajo Nation Drought Emergency.

The declaration updated Resolution CEM 25-005 and incorporated:

- Current U.S. Drought Monitor conditions.
- Executive drought declarations issued by Arizona and New Mexico.
- USDA disaster designations.
- Updated recommendations contained within the Navajo Nation Drought Contingency Plan.

The declaration recommends approximately \$6.55 million from the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund to support:

- Windmill repairs.
- Livestock watering systems.
- Water infrastructure improvements.
- Agricultural drought mitigation.
- Long-term drought resiliency.

The Commission also requested DEM provide a comprehensive report documenting actions completed under the previous drought declaration and continue advancing hazard mitigation planning and Chapter preparedness initiatives.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

Throughout the reporting period, the Commission continued strengthening coordination with the Department of Emergency Management.

The Commission reviewed:

- DEM drought preparedness activities.
- Chapter emergency preparedness training.
- American Red Cross coordination.
- Wildland fire preparedness.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan development.
- Search and Rescue program implementation.
- Emergency management staffing needs.

The Commission requested regular updates regarding implementation of emergency declarations, mitigation activities, and hazard planning efforts.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The Commission remained committed to transparency by conducting all meetings open to the public by attending our meetings in-person or via. ZOOM. Between April and June 2026, the Commission conducted one Special Meeting and two Regular Meetings that were:

- Publicly noticed at least twenty-four hours in advance.
- Open for in-person attendance.
- Available through Zoom via the Legislative Branch website.
- Attended by Commissioners, Navajo Nation programs, Chapters, elected officials, emergency response agencies, and members of the public.

The Commission also recommended providing quarterly emergency management briefings to each Agency Council to improve communication, public awareness, and regional preparedness.

FOURTH QUARTER PRIORITIES

During the Fourth Quarter, the Commission will continue focusing on:

- Completion of the revised Plan of Operations.
- Legislative review and approval of the Plan of Operations.
- Continued implementation of CMA-20-26.
- Expanded Chapter emergency preparedness assistance.
- Hazard mitigation planning.
- Wildfire, drought, monsoon, and winter preparedness.
- Intergovernmental coordination with state, federal, tribal, and local partners.

CONCLUSION

During the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission on Emergency Management continued strengthening the Navajo Nation's emergency management system through policy modernization, legislative implementation, Chapter preparedness, drought mitigation, and enhanced coordination with Navajo Nation departments and external partners. The Commission remains committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the Navajo people by improving preparedness, strengthening emergency response capabilities, and supporting resilient communities throughout the Navajo Nation.