



The Navajo Nation

Commission on Emergency Management



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Commission on Emergency Management reaffirms Navajo Nation-wide state of emergency declaration

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council and Commission on Emergency Management (CEM) convened an emergency special meeting and reaffirmed Resolution No. CEM 26-004, declaring a Navajo Nation-wide state of emergency due to severe monsoon storms, flash flooding, and storm-related damage to roads and infrastructure.

“The safety of our Navajo people remains our highest priority as severe storms and flash flooding continue across our communities,” CEM Chairman Marcarlo Roanhorse said. “We urge everyone to take flood warnings seriously. Never attempt to walk, swim, or drive through floodwaters, and keep children and family members away from washes, arroyos, and flooded crossings. Conditions can change within minutes, and water that appears shallow can quickly become life-threatening. Please limit unnecessary travel in impacted areas and give our first responders the space they need to safely carry out emergency operations.”

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, representatives of the Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) and CEM met with Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management (DEM) personnel to receive an updated situational report. The Navajo Police Department (NPD), Navajo Nation Fire Department, Navajo Nation Emergency Medical Services, DEM, and Chinle Chapter personnel and officials continue to assist with response operations. NDOT has been deployed and will assist communities throughout the Navajo Nation affected by flooding and severe washouts.

The preliminary assessment identified U.S. Highway 191 between mileposts 451 and 456 as a primary impacted area. Evacuations were conducted overnight.

Preliminary information received Wednesday morning indicates that three members of one family died during an active flash flood in Northern Agency. Behavioral and mental health services will be deployed to support the affected family, community members, victims, and emergency personnel in coordination with the Department of Health and the Division for Children and Family Services.

The Navajo Nation remains under a flood warning that took effect at 1 a.m. Wednesday and is expected to remain in effect into Thursday. Residents are strongly urged to avoid flooded roads and crossings and stay away from washes, arroyos and drainage areas. Flash floods can develop rapidly, particularly during severe monsoon storms. Floodwater can conceal washed-out roadways, debris and other hazards, and even seemingly shallow moving water can pose a danger.

Chapters requesting emergency assistance should complete an ICS 213 Resource Request Form and submit it to the DEM. Contacts are Lyla Smallcanyon at lsmallcanyon@navajo-nsn.gov; Edmund Tso at edmundtso@navajo-nsn.gov; Jaye Tom at jaye.tom@navajo-nsn.gov; Tyrone Towne at tyrone.towne@navajo-nsn.gov; or Harlan Cleveland at hcleveland@navajo-nsn.gov.

For emergency management information, contact DEM at 928-871-6892. The DEM fax number is 928-871-7569. Residents should continue to rely on official emergency notifications for the latest confirmed information.

The Commission on Emergency Management reminds all community members to stay clear from floodwaters and flooded areas. Residents should monitor official emergency notifications, follow instructions from local authorities and first responders, and avoid unnecessary travel in affected areas.

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