



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2019

Navajo Nation declares emergency due to winter weather conditions

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a declaration of emergency issued by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management due to severe winter weather conditions on the Navajo Nation. The declaration allows for local/chapter funding to be used to assist those in need with supplies such as fire wood, food, and other resources in anticipation of the Nation receiving as much as 12-inches of snow this week.

“The resources should go to the elderly, disabled, and those who are unable to leave their homes because of inclement weather and road conditions,” said President Nez. “We encourage chapters to carefully assess local needs to ensure the efficient and effective use of emergency funds to help those that are truly in need.”

The 110 chapters are each required to have an emergency response plan to implement in situations such as adverse weather conditions. Many chapters also have Community Emergency Response Teams in place to help local community members.

President Nez said that maintaining accurate documentation is essential to obtaining assistance through federal entities such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He noted that the Navajo Nation may be eligible for reimbursements through FEMA if damages exceed a \$250,000 threshold, in accordance with the federal Stafford Act.

On Tuesday morning, President Nez and Vice President Lizer met with the Navajo Nation Department of Emergency Management, Division of Transportation, Division of Public Safety, Indian Health Service, Division of Community Development, Department of Health, and other agencies to address emergency response plans due to the winter storms.

“This has to be a team effort and we need to communicate with counties, states, and other entities as well. Today’s declaration is a step in the right direction in being proactive to mobilize resources ahead of time before more storms reach our communities,” added President Nez, while calling on the Commission on Emergency Management to convene a special meeting to consider an emergency declaration.

The Commission on Emergency Management met on Tuesday afternoon and passed resolution CEM 19-02-19, which states that the Commission finds it necessary for responsible Navajo Nation

entities to immediately begin and maintain coordination for use of resources to meet the needs of all communities and activate available emergency resources such as funding to cover personnel, equipment, and other means as determined fit and feasible to restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.

The Navajo Nation Division of Transportation deployed personnel over the weekend to clear snow from roadways and will continue doing so throughout the duration of the stormy weather. Indian Health Service reported that their services have not been impacted by the weather conditions and will continue providing services at all locations.

Vice President Lizer encouraged everyone to check on their parents, grandparents, and those who are disabled to ensure they are well taken care of and that their needs are met.

“If you do not need to drive then please stay home and avoid driving on icy roads,” stated Vice President Lizer. “If you must drive, please be very cautious and please do not drive fast for the safety of yourselves and others.”

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THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

CEM 19-02-19



RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO ANTICIPATED SEVERE WINTER SNOW STORMS AND SUBSEQUENT MUD FROM SNOW MELT CREATING POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS ACROSS THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881, the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management. The Commission is authorized to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., §§ 883, (A) and (C) the Commission in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management is empowered to coordinate emergency and disaster relief services by Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities and to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., §§ 884 (B) (2), the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. Due to anticipated potential impacts and substantial public health and safety from severe winter snow storms and subsequent mud conditions resulting from snow melt that creates potential public safety risks across the Navajo Nation;
5. Any or all initial response(s) are first at the local level. However, communication and coordination are to be established for effective response(s); and
6. It is necessary and crucial to ensure public health and safety issues are addressed through adequate assessments, establishment of priorities, communication, safety measures, coordination, and use of appropriate resources to mobilize relief efforts.

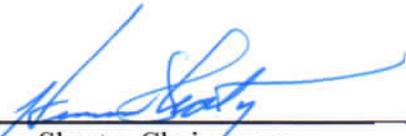
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation to address the anticipated needs of the Navajo Nation through adequate assessments, establishment of priorities, communications, safety measures, coordination, and use of appropriate resources to mobilize relief and mitigate further threats to human lives and safety; and

2. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management finds it necessary for responsible Navajo Nation entities to immediately begin and maintain coordination for use of resources to meet the needs of all communities; and
3. The Navajo Nation activate available emergency resources such as funding to cover personnel, equipment, and other means as determined fit and feasible to restore and sustain vital community infrastructure.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing declaration was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management in a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained, this 19th day of February 2019.

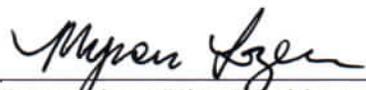


Herman Shorty, Chairperson
Commission on Emergency Management

CONCURRENCE:



Jonathan Nez, President
The Navajo Nation



Myron Lizer, Vice President
The Navajo Nation

Motion: Dicky Bain

Second: Eugenia Quintana