

Session 4: Emergency Response Coordination

Moderator: H. Cagey

Cliff Puckett, SRPMIC
Darrell LaRoche, IHS Rockville
David Kramer, PHX Area HIS

Emergency Preparedness is required of every government... Tribal governments are the same, but different.

Components of Emergency Management:

Prevention, stop it from happening (if you can)
mitigation, minimize impact if it does (building standards)
preparedness – planning, training (have a written plan)
response, actual response to event
recovery, short and long term recovery

Tribal key elements

- Requires a commitment from executive leadership
- priorities, dedication of resources, staffing, communication
- many of the things you do to prepare for large disasters will be useful in response to smaller events.
- a formal body at the executive level to guide the program (TERC: Tribal emergency response commission – required by law)
- dedicate one person to program (not always possible, but should be considered as a serious position, not just someone's hat)
- blend with cultural beliefs.

Take care of the basics!

Have plans in place, exercise those plans, have trained personnel to respond, and public information tools. A communication plan is essential. Communication – the last thing on your mind, but the first thing to blame.

Have information recorded succinctly for distribution to emergency response team (checklists, “cheat sheets”)

Engage all departments in the planning. Everyone needs to understand their emergency management role.

Educate the public – people need supplies, shelter, awareness of emergency notification systems, knowledge of evacuation routes, etc.

Tribal emergency response may also include educating the larger, non-Tribal public, in some cases. Those people need to know about issues of jurisdiction, etc.

Coordination with partners is key. No single community can respond to a regional disaster alone...develop partnerships, and know the players before the event takes place...know their responsibilities & Capabilities. Know the system and your role in the system.

Know your capabilities as well. How quickly can you get 10 firetrucks, how good is your ambulance coverage, etc?

IHS Emergency Management, CDR Darrell LaRoche

A Staff function in the office of the director, office of clinical and preventive services.

Responsibilities:

Trauma services, EMS, physical security, emergency management

IHS Emergency Preparedness Coordinator job has been vacant for more than a year and a half.

Each IHS Area has a person designated as emergency management points of contact (EMPOC), serves as a conduit for information and situational awareness

Each IHS program has an emergency management or continuity aspect to it. \

NIMS – national incident management system

IHS works within the national response framework...

“There are some items we can provide during a disaster, but most of the time we outfit a team to respond.”

Most emergencies on Tribal land are not Presidentially-declared emergencies, the IHS will only respond within its own framework.

Stafford Act

- Tribe would request a declaration through the State Governor
- governor would request assistance on behalf of the tribe
- follow national response plan

Rod Mendes, Hoopa

Tribes in CA don't get any assistance from counties, they go directly to FEMA.

Stafford Act doesn't fit tribes. CA Wildfires marked the first instances of Tribes being added to Presidential declarations separate from their respective counties/states.