



FEMA

# Region 6 Tribal News

April 2011



## Message from the Regional Administrator



I am pleased to announce the publication of the inaugural Tribal Newsletter from FEMA Region 6. This newsletter includes news from Tribes and pertinent program activities occurring at FEMA.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and I remain committed to engaging and partnering with Tribal Nations with a "Whole Community" approach to emergency management. The Whole Community concept encourages our collective focus to be on the entire, comprehensive needs of the community. We work as one team with our partners in federal, state, Tribal and local governments, the private sector and all of our stakeholders to help prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. In essence, the Whole Community approach to emergency management encompasses three key concepts:

- Understanding and meeting the true needs of the entire affected community
- Engaging all aspects of the community (public, private and civic) in both defining its needs and devising ways to meet them
- Strengthening the assets, institutions, and social processes that work well in communities on a daily basis to improve resiliency and emergency management outcomes

We will be further discussing and applying these concepts with you and soliciting your valuable contributions in the upcoming months as our working partnership with Tribal governments continues to prosper.

It is our desire that this newsletter provides you with an informal avenue to correspond and interact with our regional staff and other Tribes throughout the five state region. We are proud to have Winston Barton join us as our Tribal Liaison for the region. He will serve as the primary point of contact for Tribal concerns. Winston was raised in Oklahoma and has a strong Tribal heritage and

background. He knows and understands the unique Tribal cultures and will be a valuable resource for our Tribal partners and Region 6. Prior to joining FEMA as a Congressional Disaster Assistance Employee 10 years ago, he spent many years working for the federal and state governments in communications, social services and health care.

We invite you to send articles and questions related to the newsletter and let us know what you would like to see in future editions. We look forward to working with you and making our partnership even stronger day by day.

Tony Russell  
FEMA Region 6 Administrator

## Public Assistance Training



FEMA's Public Assistance Program is currently coordinating with Tribal Nations in the region to provide training at the local level. Several Tribes have agreed to participate in this

endeavor by hosting the presentations. These 1-day sessions will cover:

- An overview of the Public Assistance program
- Training on FEMA forms
- Information on maintaining proper documentation
- An overview of Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)
- An overview of 406 Mitigation.

Providing this instruction before of a disaster strikes should make the recovery process more efficient for Tribal Leaders and Emergency Managers.

Public Assistance staff are coordinating with Tribal Emergency Managers to arrange training dates for the Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations within Region 6 by Summer 2011.

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<http://www.twitter.com/femaregion6>

<http://www.facebook.com/FEMA>

<http://www.youtube.com/fema>

<http://blog.fema.gov>

**Winston Barton**  
**Tribal Liaison**

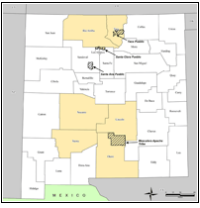
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## New Mexico Major Disaster Declaration



One Tribe and three Pueblos in New Mexico have recently been approved for FEMA disaster assistance as a result of the severe winter storm that swept through the state beginning February 1, 2011. This assistance will aid in the recovery process for the Tribes and

Pueblos. The storm brought sub-zero temperatures and snowy conditions to many parts of the state. These conditions lasted a week or more in some locations. New Mexico Governor, Susana Martinez, declared a State of Emergency on February 3, 2011, after severe cold stressed the state's natural gas system and forced shutdowns that affected 32,000 customers.

FEMA Public Assistance was approved on March 24, 2011 for the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Santa Ana Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and the portions of Santa Clara Pueblo that lie within Rio Arriba County. Public Assistance is designated for emergency work and the repair and replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will also be available to Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations throughout New Mexico. This program provides assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.

### Oklahoma – Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC)

In December 2004, several Tribal emergency managers in Oklahoma formed the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC). The reason this Coalition was formed was for learning and networking for Tribal Emergency Managers. The Coalition represents 22 of the 38 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma and meets monthly at various locations throughout the state.

The Coalition began holding annual summits in June 2008. These summits are designed to assist those involved in Emergency Management to understand and overcome misconceptions about jurisdictional boundaries,

organizations, tribal resources and federal assistance. The summit has evolved into an excellent opportunity for Tribal, federal, state and local officials to network with other agencies and organizations.

This year, the summit will be held at the Downstream Casino Resort in Quapaw, Oklahoma, beginning May 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing through May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Coalition is pleased to present a variety of resources from Tribal governments, state and federal agencies and the private sector...all in one conference to assist in identifying ways in which everyone works together to provide response and recovery efforts in emergency and disaster situations.

### Emergency Management Institute Tribal Courses



The mission of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is to *"Support the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA's goals by improving the competencies of U.S. officials at all levels of government to prevent, prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the potential effects of all types of disasters and emergencies on the American people."*

To this end, EMI offers several courses with a special emphasis of collaborating and working with our Tribal partners. These courses include:

- Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments (E/L 580)
- Emergency Management Operations for Tribal Governments (E 581)
- Mitigation for Tribal Governments (E/L 582)
- Continuity of Operations (COOP) for Tribal Governments (L 552)
- Building Relationships with Tribal Governments (IS 650)

Additional information regarding these courses, as well as other courses offered through EMI, can be located at:

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMICourses/>