
Tribal Assistance Coordination Group



Tribal Assistance Coordination Group

- What is the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group?
 - The ***Tribal Assistance Coordination Group*** (TAC-G) is the name of the group of US Federal Government entities dedicated to cooperation and collaboration to strengthen comprehensive all hazards emergency management as it relates to the over 560 Federally recognized Tribal Nations and the millions of American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific and Atlantic Islanders.
 - The TAC-G, provides the strategic guidance and operational context to work within an interagency framework that supports the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and respects the application of the National Response Framework (NRF).



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Tribal Assistance Coordination Group

- The Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TACG) supports Emergency Support Function (ESF) #15 and the NRF Tribal Annex, and includes the following activities:
 - Provides liaison officers to ensure coordination with tribal governments on all aspects of incident management operations.
 - Coordinates with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure tribal relations actions are carried out in accordance with established Federal Government policies and procedures.
 - Assists in providing an efficient and reliable flow of incident-related information between the tribes and the Federal Government.
 - Coordinates staff and resources as requested by the Tribal Relations Element as designated by the NRF.



Tribal Assistance Coordination Group

Indian Affairs (Bureau of Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Education)

- In consultation with tribal officials, Indian Affairs, through the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (OHSES), provides, either by itself, by contract with a tribe, or both, a broad variety of services in an emergency, including basic law enforcement protection, fire protection, emergency social services assistance to affected individuals and families, and support for all Federal agencies responding to the incident.
- Indian Affairs assesses impacts on trust lands, resources, and infrastructure and supports tribal efforts commensurate with trust responsibilities.



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Indian Affairs

(Bureau of Indian Affairs/Bureau of Indian Education)

- In consultation with tribal officials, Indian Affairs supports education programs and manages residential facilities for Indian students at 184 IA funded elementary and secondary schools and dormitories. IA also operates two post secondary schools and administrates grants to 26 tribal colleges and universities. The IA school system spans 23 states and supports 22 education line offices.



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Indian Health Service (IHS)

- In consultation with tribal officials, the IHS, through the Office of Emergency Services (IHS ES), provides comprehensive public health services and acute (emergency) care directly, through contract health services (non-tribal contractor), or through self-determination health care contracts or compacts with American Indian and Alaska Native organizations. These comprehensive health services include all aspects of environmental health, as well as mental health and social services.



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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes and acknowledges that American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments hold a unique status in the United States of America with the rights and benefits of sovereign nations. This assistance is coordinated by the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.



Tribal Assistance Coordination Group

Supporting Organizations

In support of the Primary Agencies, the following organizations may contribute important elements of the unified response:

- **Administration for Children and Families (ACF)**
 - ACF supports economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native Pacific Islanders through the provision of community-based project funding to improve the lives of Native Children and Families thereby reducing long-term dependency on public assistance.
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
 - USDA directly supports tribal nations by providing education, training, and support to enable the response to emergency incidents. USDA also provides expertise and support concerning food safety and security, plant and animal health, and other homeland security issues including border security.



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Supporting Organizations

In support of the Primary Agencies, the following organizations may contribute important elements of the unified response:

■ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- In consultation with tribal officials, CDC directly participates in the emergency response and provides expertise and epidemiological support in the event that an incident involves a biological agent. Working with tribal health officials and the Indian Health Service, CDC assesses health impacts and needs in support of tribal efforts.

■ Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- In consultation with tribal officials, FDA directly participates in any emergency response aimed at an act of terrorism that contaminates food or pharmaceutical industry products affecting tribal lands.



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Supporting Organizations

In support of the Primary Agencies, the following organizations may contribute important elements of the unified response:

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**



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Supporting Organizations

In support of the Primary Agencies, the following organizations may contribute important elements of the unified response:

- **National Park Service**
 - Emergency Services Branch

- **Department of the Interior**
 - Office of Emergency Management



Indian Affairs

Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Services



History of OHSES

- 2001 Emergency Coordinator Position established in ASIA
- 2002 Homeland Security Position established in BIA OJS
- 2003 Homeland Security Position realigned in AS-IA
- 2006 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services established under AS-IA



Office Activities

- Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)
- National Response Framework (NRP)
Tribal Annex & ESF #15
- Pandemic Flu Preparedness
- National Preparedness System (NPS)
Integrated Planning System (IPS) &
Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
(CPG) Implementation
- Government Emergency
Telecommunications Service (GETS) &
Wireless Priority System (WPS)



Office Activities (con't)

- National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)
- Oversight of Information Sharing Environment (ISE)
- Coordination of National Incident Management System (NIMS) & ICS Requirements
- DHS Common Operational Picture (COP)
- Coordination and support of Ancillary Essential Support Functions (ESF)



Information Sharing Environment

- OHSES shares information on a daily basis with BIA, BIE and participating Tribes
- Daily situation reports from DOI and DHS as well as relevant information concerning Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) is shared with confirmed LEO's that have a non-public email address.



DHS Security Clearance Program

- OHSES has partnered with DHS to issue Secret level security clearances to Tribal Police Chiefs and Emergency Managers.
- To date 20 individuals have applied for clearances.
- As part of this program, OHSES has developed a database of nearly 200 Tribal Police Chiefs and 200 Tribal Emergency Managers/Coordinators



Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- OHSES partnered with the NRC to identify all Tribes within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant as well as providing the contact information for the Tribal Police Chief and/or Emergency Coordinator
- This is a first step in a larger program to identify all CI/KR in Indian Country and assist Tribes as needed with emergency planning and mitigation



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