



Disaster Hits Small Communities

On September 9th around 2:30 P.M., life would change for many. The Butte Fire began ripping through the hills of Calaveras and Amador counties triggering thousands to evacuate. September 12th, in the early days of the Butte Fire, the Valley Fire ignited in Lake County, thus causing thousands more to be evacuated from their homes. In the beginning days of both fires, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. had issued Emergency Proclamations for the counties of Lake, Napa, Calaveras and Amador because of the effects of the fires and the assistance that was needed to get the fires under control. California was in a state of emergency.

Several weeks later, with over 145,000 thousands of acres that were burned, the loss of over 2,700 residences and commercial properties, damages done to highways and infrastructure, and the six lives that were lost, it was complete and utter devastation.

On September 21, 2015, The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid was made available to the State of California and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by the Valley Fire and the Butte Fire for Individual Assistance. On October 8th, Public Assistance for both Lake and Calaveras counties were added to the disaster declaration.

From the beginning of the fires, both local and State Operations were activated to assist local jurisdictions. California Office of Emergency Services, Office of Tribal Coordination, was one of the many that were included in this activation. Coordination was done with Tribal communities to ensure needs were being met and assistance was provided as needed.

There are many things to consider once response begins to transition into recovery and these communities start to rebuild. This includes watershed concerns due to potential El Niño effects, cultural/historical preservation and

identifying both single and group sites for FEMA's modular home units for fire survivors. Today these activities are ongoing and will continue until fire survivors find long term housing and cultural sites are protected.



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- *Valley/Butte Fires*
- *Middletown Rancheria*
- *Inter Tribal Long Term Recovery Foundation*
- *Training Opportunities*
- *Regional Points of Contact*
- *Cal OES Grants Management*

Tribal Talk: Middletown Rancheria– Valley Fire

Once the response moved to recovery, the Cal OES Office of Tribal Coordination sat down with Middletown Rancheria, Chairman Simon and Vice-Chairwoman Sally Peterson, to discuss their experience as their community faced evacuations. Below are their responses to decisions they were faced with during the Valley Fire, Lake County.

At the onset of the fire, what thoughts and actions were implemented by Tribal council and its Tribal members? The Tribe’s casino and hotel employees?

“It was just common safety knowledge and sense of survival. Tribal Council was communicating via texts...calling other hotels to find places for tribal members. We were in constant contact throughout the evacuation process to make sure we knew where all of our members were and if they had places to stay. It was very chaotic. We need to work out a plan for re-entry. That was something that we found to be very difficult. Most of us just stayed because we didn’t want to risk not being able to come back in.”

- Vice Chairwoman Sally Peterson

In the initial response of the fire, what value was it to have assistance from other Tribes and organizations?

“Dore Bietz, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, was one of the first to contact us to see how we were and if we needed any assistance. It wasn’t until our political consultant reached out to Cal OES, that placed us in contact with other entities outside of the county that began the ball rolling for assistance. This occurred by the second day of the fire.

“Adam Geisler, La Jolla Band of Mission Indians, came out within a few days of the fire and was absolutely invaluable. The first initial coordination meeting was a breath of fresh air. It was the best thing that could have happened. I don’t know any other way I could say it.”-Chairman Jose Simon

Did the Tribe implement an Emergency Operations Plan? If not, after experiencing this event, does the Tribe see the value of having one, and if so, why?

“Yes. We had an ad hoc plan with the help of Adam. Adam really spear-headed right when he walked through the door. We set up the command center. We did everything that was supposed to be done. It was ad hoc, but it will be something that we put in stone here in hopefully the next six months that will always be a part of the Tribe’s emergency response. We had so many Tribal members and employees, that if we were able to get them through the checkpoints, they rolled up their sleeves and ready to help out. It was really a whole community effort.” -Vice Chairwoman Sally Peterson



Continued...

Do you think that adding pre-existing agreements, whether it be the county or neighboring tribes to come and assist, is something the Tribe would consider today after experiencing this disaster?

“Yes, absolutely. The first questions I asked Adam Geisler and Cruz Pounce, Inter-Tribal Longer-Term Recovery Foundation (ITLTRF), were ‘How do we join your organization? What can do we do to partner with your organization to further our knowledge and capability as a Tribe?’ We appreciate what La Jolla and ITLTRF imparted with us so that we are able to do the same for other local Tribes should they be faced with an event such as this. We are going to do everything we can to put together an emergency response team with the seven Tribes in this area. It would be an absolute value to every Tribe across the country to have organizations like this that when a disaster hits, Tribes have something to lean on.

“As soon as I became chairman in 1997, I said we will not be a Tribe that does not work with the surrounding community. We have created a lot of relationships. If I have a question, I am not afraid to ask them because I have a personal relationship with neighboring jurisdictions.” -Chairman Jose Simon

Prior to this fire, did emergency management preparedness planning cross your mind?

Oh, it definitely took a back seat before the fire. I personally learned through this experience—sometimes I think I can do everything but this was something after the third or fourth day, wow, you have to be able to take a break. You have to be able to have a team to take care of things. It was on the backburner for us, but it’s not something that we will let slip again because this disaster opened my eyes.” -Chairman Jose Simon



Inter Tribal Long Term Recovery Foundation

Fires, Floods, Earthquakes – Preparedness and Recovery

“The state of California is no stranger to natural disasters, neither are the 109 tribal nations within the state. Though the difference these days is the level of intense fires, (potential) floods from “El Niño”, and the great quake that USGS has guaranteed us will happen in our lifetime. The four year drought that we are currently in has left us extremely vulnerable to massive wildfires, such as the Butte and Valley Fires. These events are regional and impact both the tribal nations and surrounding communities.

Recently I, along with one of the ITLTRF Inter Tribal AmeriCorps Preparedness Program members, Shannon Campbell, were asked by the California Tribal Assistance Coordination Group to assist the Middletown Rancheria in its immediate recovery phase. Adam Geisler (Secretary for La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians Tribal Council) is one of the ITLTRF's acting Chairman, and he was already assisting Middletown Rancheria for two days on the ground when we arrived. He said to me, when we arrived on the same day the roads reopened to residents, “ITLTRF was born out of the mega Wildfires of 2007 that devastated several of the Southern California Tribes. Driving to the Rancheria, it was a déjà vu of those days.”

The Middletown Rancheria Tribal Chairman, José Simon and Vice Chairwoman, Sally Peterson were already doing a great job in helping their tribal members, enterprise employees and their families, and the community at large. We assisted in organizing them into an Incident Command System (ICS) team. We participated in council meetings, state calls, and community meetings. It was invaluable to have an AmeriCorps member that already was working with tribes in Southern California apply her skills in this much needed venue. To have a team come in with knowledge about tribal cultural respect, such as knowing how to behave with elders or when to speak and when to listen, and having an experienced understanding of tribal governments was imperative.

When it comes to disasters, it is vital that we continue to take a whole community approach. “Indian Country Strong, right? Sovereign nation to sovereign nation, support across the state, across the country.” This is especially beneficial during the preparedness and recovery efforts. It is important to share your mitigation projects during preparedness programs, from the member to member grass roots efforts to the tribal government. You can share things like your decision points to declare or not declare a disaster, or to share the declaration with the state. One of the council members from Middletown Rancheria shared with me that Sovereignty was not only about governing a land boundary; it is a way of life for the tribal members, and it is an interaction with the land, water, and air. Sovereignty is also the interaction beyond the boundary lines to be a leader, to be a participant, and to be a member of the surrounding community. The Chairman and his team exhibited and carried out all of these traits of leadership during the Valley Fire, and they continue to do so during the recovery phase.

During response, we all know that there are only so many resources available in the first 48 hours of a disaster. Many of the tribal nations now have emergency management capabilities with fire departments and law enforcement officers. During response, we know that it is important to focus on life safety first, tribal member or not. Recovery efforts on the other hand can be more tricky and difficult to navigate. But it does not have to be.

At the ITLTRF, we encourage all tribal nations to assign a member to be the emergency manager, and to make that 75% of their job duties. We all have other duties as assigned, but this member can have intimate knowledge about the tribe's hazard mitigation plans, the tribe's contacts with the county, state, and federal agencies as well as establish a network of contacts with response and recovery folks. Remember that even in federally-declared events, some recovery assistance programs are still run by the State although they are federally funded. The tribal emergency manager can assist in clarifying and creating efficient programs for preparedness, response, and recovery in every phase for the tribal nation.

During disaster events it is important to take a whole community approach. After all, that is all we have after the first responders and the news cameras leave, taking the national attention with them. In the end you are left with your tribe and your surrounding community. What efforts are you willing to take to minimize human suffering before, during, and after natural disasters?

I hope you take a page out of our lesson book and that of Middletown Rancheria to honestly evaluate and assess your tribal capacity for emergency management--and pledge to prepare your tribe for future disasters starting today. Designate your emergency manager, reach out for help now, and take your first step toward a path of resilience for your community.”

-Cruz Ponce

Inter Tribal Long Term Recovery Foundation

Readiness | Response | Recovery



Center for Domestic Preparedness Offers Tribal Training Week

FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is hosting a special training week for Tribal responders, March 20-26. The CDP has seats in seven courses that week. The courses cover the responder disciplines of law enforcement, incident command and healthcare. Possibly the best part is that the training is fully funded by the Department of Homeland Security.

"Tribal responders receive fully funded training at the CDP," explained David Hall, the CDP's Tribal Training coordinator. "That funding covers their travel, meals and lodging while training at the CDP."

"Tribal responders train at the CDP all the time, but during this week, they will have an opportunity to train with other tribal and Native Alaskan responders, which gives them the opportunity to train and network with others who may be facing similar challenges," Hall said.

During the upcoming Tribal Training Week, the CDP will offer the programs listed below. Responders in the first three courses will train in their respective classes throughout the week and

then participate in the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE) on Friday. The ICE combines multiple courses in a final culminating exercise that promotes an interdisciplinary response to a mass casualty incident. The exercise takes place in realistic training venues, including the only hospital in the nation dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. The CDP incorporates role players and human patient simulators into the exercise to add even more realism.

During the ICE, the students face the realistic challenges responders deal with in a complex all-hazards environment including initial call-out, scene size up, rescue, decontamination, pre-hospital treatment, crime scene management, evidence collection and hospital response.

Below are the courses that will be offered during the Tribal training week:

- Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualties with (ICE)*
- Hospital Emergency Response Train-*

ing for Mass Casualty Incidents combined with ICE

-Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents with ICE

-Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response for All Hazards with table-top exercise

-Law Enforcement Response Actions for CBRNE Incidents; Law Enforcement Protective Measures for CBRNE Incidents; and Hands-on Training for Law Enforcement with a table-top exercise.

For more information on any of these courses, go to <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. To sign up for the Tribal Training Week, contact Hall at

david.hall@fema.dhs.gov or (256) 847-2081.



Emergency Management Institute Tribal Training Opportunity

Tribal emergency managers, response personnel, employees, department heads, and leaders will have the opportunity to participate in Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments on February 29 – March 3, 2016, at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The course provides participants with a basic understanding of emergency management principles and their role in leading and directing their tribes in implementing comprehensive emergency management systems. It also covers the legal and financial basis for emergency management, hazard identification and analysis, planning, components of an emergency management system, readiness through training, forming public

and private sector partnerships, and upgrading and sustaining emergency management capabilities.

No prerequisites are required; however, completion of online courses ICS 100 (Introduction to Incident Command System [ICS]), ICS 200 (ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents), IS 700 (National Incident Management System, An Introduction), and IS 800 (National Response Framework, An Introduction) are recommended prior to taking the course.

Tribal applicants may apply by completing a FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application, no later than January 22, 2016. Mail applications to NETC Admissions Office (Room I-216), National Emergency

Training Center, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998, fax to (301) 447-1658, or email to netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov. State, territory, and local applicants must send their applications through their State Training Officer. FEMA regional staff must send their applications through their regional training manager. Please send questions to Katie Hirt at katie.hirt@fema.dhs.gov. Space is limited.



Cal OES Grants Management Tribal Programs

Grants Management, within the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), strives to enhance and continually improve customer service to our grant Subrecipients.

The following three Grants Management Divisions support **six** programs to fund Tribes:

Homeland Security and Prop 1B Division:

The mission of the Homeland Security and Prop 1B Division is to enhance and improve overall customer service to our Subrecipients while ensuring all grant expenditures are in compliance with state and federal requirements. The Division manages four federal preparedness grant programs, of which one allocates tribal funding.

- ◆ **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP):** HSGP supports the building, sustainment and delivery of core capabilities to enable Tribes to strengthen their capacity to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.

Catherine Lewis, Division Chief
(916) 845-8106

Catherine.Lewis@caloes.ca.gov

Victim Services Division:

The Victims Services Division provides federal and state financial assistance to victim services agencies in California that provide a wide range of services for victims and their families in the areas of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse, and other victimizations. Four victims services' programs focus primarily on serving the tribal communities:

- ◆ **American Indian Child Abuse Treatment** – Provides therapeutic clinical services to child victims and their non-offending families.
- ◆ **American Indian Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program** – Provides advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ◆ **Native American Children Training Forum** – Provides technology to Tribes and Tribal service providers to enable child abuse training via webinar.
- ◆ **Court Education and Training** – The Administrative Office of the Courts administers a training program that must use 40% of funds to train Tribal Court Judges on violence against women issues.

Leigh Bills, Division Chief
(916) 845-8280

Leigh.bills@caloes.ca.gov

Criminal Justice and Emergency Management Division:

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Unit assists EMPG Subrecipients with all federal, state, and programmatic requirements, as well as provide grant support to the Subrecipients in their efforts to improve their emergency management and preparedness capabilities. Of the two programs in the EMPG Unit, one focuses primarily on tribes:

- ◆ **Tribal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program**—The purpose is to assist federally-recognized tribes, located in California, in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. Tribal EMPG eligible activities and expenses include emergency management-related planning, staffing and operating costs, equipment, training and exercises.

John Thomas, Unit Chief
(916) 845-8413

John.Thomas@caloes.ca.gov

*For more information, please visit
<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/Cal-OES-Divisions/Grants-Management>*

Or contact:

Grants Management:

Gina Buccieri-Harrington, Assistant Director

(916) 845-8513

Gina.Buccieri-harrington@caloes.ca.gov

Preparing for El Nino 2016

State Response Capabilities:

The State-Federal Flood Operations Center in Sacramento and the Eureka Flood Center coordinate flood response activities and disseminate flood forecasts and warnings to the public. Staff is also available year-round to track incidents with potential flood impacts. When activated during flood emergencies, flood incidents, or other high-water events, depending on the scale of the event, one or both centers are staffed in compliance with the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) with additional personnel from other branches within the Department.

Did you know California has 13 highly and specially trained Swiftwater/Flood Search & Rescue teams located strategically throughout the state? These fully equipped teams have been deployed within California during the 1995 Central valley Floods, the Winter 1996-97 floods, and to Louisiana in 2005 to assist with Hurricane Katrina rescues. In 2008, eight of our teams were requested in Louisiana and Texas to respond to Hurricanes Ike and Gustave and were involved in active life safety and humanitarian assistance.

The CCC has been fighting floods since the Corps was created in 1976, with corps members being dispatched to nearly every major flood since then. CCC crews work closely with the Department of Water Resources repairing and stabilizing levees

and protecting them from wave-wash erosion. Corps members also work throughout the state to aid communities facing threats from major storms or floods.

Corps members receive Flood Fight training that includes techniques for properly filling and placing sandbags, protecting hillsides and more, so crews are ready to respond when floods occur or severe winter storms are on the horizon. Since the CCC was established, crews have filled more than three million sandbags.

Other agencies with flood response duties include Department of Water Resources, CHP (evacuation and crowd/traffic control), Cal Fire, State Parks, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Cal Trans, among others. Cal OES coordinates all public agency activities during state disasters.

Be Aware:

- Preparedness is everyone's job
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Tune into local radio/television for weather updates and alerts
- Follow evacuation orders
- Learn the difference between Flood Advisory, Flood Watch and Flood Warning
- You must be ready to act on your own

Be Prepared:

- Review & Update your family emergency plan
- Store important documents in a safe deposit box
- Assemble or replenish your emergency supply kits
- Purchase flood insurance
- Purchase sandbags and other supplies as needed

Take Action:

- Turn Around, Don't Drown! ®
- Avoid streams, rivers, flood control channels, & other areas subject to flooding
- Move valuables to upper levels of your home
- Disconnect all appliances before evacuating
- Charge all essential electronics



Resources:

www.Storms.ca.gov
www.Ready.gov
www.nws.noaa.gov
www.Floodprepareca.com
www.myhazards.caloes.ca.gov
www.Floodsmart.gov

Cal OES Regional Points of Contact

Cal OES has three Tribal Point of Contacts (POC) in each Cal OES Administrative Region (Inland, Southern and Coastal). These POC are there to assist the Office of Tribal Coordination with disseminating tribal information to other regional staff, field Emergency Service Coordinators (ESC) and county/local government. To the extent possible and where appropriate, the POC participate in Tribal exercises and recommend inclusion of Tribal entities in county/local government training and exercises to local emergency managers. They maintain awareness of opportunities to include Tribal representatives in local government forums and relay those opportunities to local government and Office of Tribal Coordination, as appropriate. Lastly, to the extent possible, they help maintain situational awareness on Tribal matters as they relate to disasters/emergencies, and assist with documenting issues as appropriate in coordination with the Office of Tribal Coordination.

The links below will direct you to the Cal OES Regional maps that will help you determine your Tribes' POC.

Coastal Region: There are 16 counties within the Coastal Administration Region which is the same area as Mutual Aid Region II. There are a total of 34 Tribes in Coastal Region. Within the region there are 151 incorporated cities. The total population of all cities and counties in the Coastal region is 8,090,270.

Inland Region: There are 31 counties within three Mutual Aid Regions (III, IV, V) within the Inland Administration Region. There are a total of 35 Tribes in Inland Region. Within the region there are 123 incorporated cities ranging in population from approximately 200 to 500,000. The total population of all cities and counties in the Inland region is 7,181,010.

Southern Region: There are 11 counties and two Mutual Aid Regions (I and VI) within the Southern Administration Region. There are a total of 41 Tribes in Southern Region. Within the region there are 226 incorporated cities. The total population of all cities and counties in the Southern Region is approximately 21,648,506.

Coastal Tribal Point of Contact:

Jan Marnell-

Jan.Marnell@caloes.ca.gov

(510) 207-8863

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/>

RegionalOperationsSite/Documents/
Coastal%20Region%20Map%202015-
03.pdf

Southern Tribal Point of Contact:

Yolande Love

Yolande.Love@caloes.ca.gov

(562) 795-2904

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/>

RegionalOperationsSite/Documents/
EMA_ESC_OA_Assignments_Southern.pdf

Inland Tribal Point of Contact:

Kyle Noderer

Kyle.Noderer@caloes.ca.gov

(916) 657-9490

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/>

RegionalOperationsSite/Documents/
Inland%20Region%20Map.pdf

Significant Meetings, Trainings and Links

If your Tribal Community is interested in hosting any of the following trainings for 2016, please contact Melanie Lusi at Melanie.Lusi@caloes.ca.gov.

- **Integrating Access and Functional Needs**
- **Public Law 280**
- **Debris Training**
- **Tribal Cultural Awareness**
- **ICS/SEMS/NIMS Combined Basic Curriculum**
- **Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Management and Operations**
- **Incident Command System (ICS)/EOC Interface Workshop**

Significant Weekly/Monthly Calls:

Statewide Drought Call–

Purpose of the call: National Weather Service and State Agencies report on current drought conditions. Update on eligible drought grant programs for Counties, Cities, Tribes and Water District. Tribes and Counties report on potential issues and impacts that they each may be experiencing due to drought conditions

Every other Monday at 11:00AM

866-768-8564

Code: 7526714#

National Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (N TAC-G) Call-

1st Thursday of each month

866-768-8564

Code: 7526714#

California Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (CA TAC-G) Call-

3rd Thursday of each month at 9:00AM

877-655-9025

Code: 4174120#

Training Opportunities:

[Cal OES Training Bulletin](#)

[FEMA Independent Study](#)

Other helpful links:

[Indian Health Services](#)

[Prepare for Emergencies in Indian Country](#)

[FEMA Tribal Policies & Legislation](#)

[Emergency Preparedness and Response for Native American Cultural Resources](#)

[Cal OES Grants](#)

[Red Guide to Recovery](#)

Contact Cal OES Office of Tribal Coordination

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