

CAL OES TRIBAL TALK NEWSLETTER

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MEET YOUR CONTACTS



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CAL OES TRIBAL COORDINATION

The purpose of the Office of Tribal Coordination is to improve and maintain communication and collaboration between the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and all Native American Tribes in California. This office aims to create effective collaboration and informed decision-making where all parties share a goal of reaching a decision together. Our office priorities are to educate internal staff and external partners to understand the culture of California Native Americans and their emergency management and homeland security issues in order to achieve a strong and supported preparedness posture in and around Indian Country.

Services Provided

- Tribal Coordination and Collaboration
- Tribal Cultural Sensitivity Awareness Training
- Government-to-Government Consultation
- Emergency Management & Homeland Security Programs
- Grants Management
- Disaster Assistance Information
- Tribal Assistance Call (TAC-G) during Disasters

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TRIBAL TALK - FEMA Partners with Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria

Finding housing solutions where they didn't exist before

No one remembers who contacted whom. They just know the conversation happened within hours of the Camp Fire igniting. By that time, the Town of Paradise was twisted metal and burning white ash. In the days and weeks to follow, 86 people would be pronounced dead; more than a thousand families left homeless.



FEMA Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs)

The Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria wanted to help. Not only did we want to help our tribal partners, but we also wanted to help the whole community,” said Greg Borene, the tribe’s co-chair and housing authority lead. The Camp Fire leveled three homes belonging to tribal family members, which were not located on tribal property. Tribal land did come into play, though, even though no tribal land burned in the Camp Fire.



FEMA Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs)

Enterprise Rancheria leadership agreed to partner with FEMA to build a temporary housing community on tribal land using their manpower. The arrangement was a first-of-its-kind between FEMA and a California tribe. Enterprise Rancheria Chairwoman, Glenda Nelson calls it a “natural marriage,” but she also feels a strong connection with disaster survivors.

“As Native Americans, I think we can relate with fire victims because we all come from a lot of poverty and we’re all working really hard to change that,” said Nelson. “I think you reap what you sow and the more we share, the more we lift-up others, the more we are blessed. We are a blessed tribe.”

The group's first choice was a 63-acre plot of tribal land. However, between the results of an environmental impact study and projected costs, it was not a feasible option. Next up was a subdivision already under construction, with some of the infrastructure intact. There, FEMA and the tribe helped 11 families get back on their feet by providing new manufactured housing units for temporary homes.



*Front row, left to right: Cindy Jones, Glenda Nelson, Crystal Gilbert
Back row, left to right: Donna Rodriguez, Greg Borene, Thomas Lozano*

“Eleven houses are great,” Nelson began. “It’s 11 more than what we had. But we wanted to do more. As a tribe, we had the opportunity to do more, but we had things that prevented us.”

The next time around there will likely be fewer obstacles. The tribe and FEMA’s partnership is now established. Conversations have already taken place regarding potential housing sites and the first project has been a success. “The time

to think about housing solutions for survivors is before a disaster and not after,” said Nelson. “Partnerships like the one FEMA has with Enterprise Rancheria are forward-thinking and will allow us to best serve survivors and our community. At the end of the day, that’s always a critical part of this tribe’s mission.”

Written By: Elberta McKnight, FEMA Strategy & Messaging Specialist

TRIBAL TALK - Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians and CAL FIRE Relationship (BVFD)

The Buena Vista Rancheria opened its Casino (Harrah's Nor Cal) in April of 2019; the Integrated Service Agreement (ISA) stipulated the need for fire and safety mitigation. That being said the Tribe purchased a new Type I, used Type I, and a new Type 3 4x4 fire engines. The Tribe also completely remodeled a metal warehouse for the engines and equipment and purchased a new four bedroom, two bathroom unit for sleeping quarters. The ISA requires the BVFD to



Buena Vista Fire Engine Type I



BVFD Fire Captain and Team

complete all requirements by the Mountain Valley Emergency Medical Services Authority, such as contracting for personnel to include only 15 full time staff from CAL FIRE. The BVFD is officially the first advanced life support fire department in Amador County since this classification was introduced in 1999. The Rancheria now has eight accredited Paramedics in the local Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Buena Vista Rancheria FD Call Log, 07/01/2019-07/31/2019

LOCATION	CALL TYPE
Stony Creek Rd.	Vegetation Fire
Grapevine Gulch Rd.	Vegetation Fire
Coal Mine Rd. x9	Medical Aid
Jackson Valley Rd.	Medical Aid
Red Oak Drive	Medical Aid
Heritage Drive	Medical Aid
Three Oaks Drive	Medical Aid
Jackson Valley Rd.	Medical Aid
Coal Mine Rd.	Vehicle Accident
Jackson Valley Rd.	Medical Aid
Camanche Parkway North	Vehicle Accident
Jackson Valley Rd./Martin	Vehicle Accident
Jackson Valley Rd.	Medical Aid
Dry Creek Lane	Vegetation Fire

LOCATION	CALL TYPE
West Park Drive	Medical Aid
Jackson Court	Medical Aid
Camanche Rd. x2	Medical Aid
Camanche Rd. x2	Vegetation Fire
Curran Rd.	Vehicle Accident
Amoruso	VMP
Curran Rd./Camanche Rd.	Vehicle Accident
Coyote Drive	Medical Aid
Park Circle	Public Assist
Park Circle x2	Medical Aid
Buena Vista Rd.	Medical Aid
Hilltop Drive	Medical Aid
Stony Creek Rd.	Medical Aid
Jackson Valley Rd.	Medical Aid
Highway 124	Residential Fire

Information Provided By Mike Despain, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

SIGNIFICANT MEETINGS, TRAININGS, AND LINKS

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

1st Thursday of each month

877-655-9025
Code: 4174120#

If your tribal community is interested in hosting trainings for 2020, please contact Cal OES Tribal Affairs.

Tribalaffairs@caloes.ca.gov

Training Opportunities:

[Cal OES Training Bulletin](#)

[FEMA Independent Study](#)

[Center for Domestic Preparedness \(CDP\)](#)

Other helpful links:

[Indian Health Services](#)

[Prepare for Emergencies in Indian Country](#)

[Cal OES Grants](#)

[Red Guide to Recovery](#)

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