

NAVAJO COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Supervisor Whiting Addresses Forest Issues and Wildfire Preparedness

Supervisor Jason Whiting addressed the Snowflake and Taylor Town Councils in April discussing forest issues and wildfire preparedness. Mary Springer and Catrina Jenkins discussed the different strategies, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery that are employed in the emergency management discipline and what activities are taking place to keep citizens informed and prepared in the event of wildfire emergencies.

National Preparedness Conference

Emergency Management staff along with partners from the Health District and the Sheriff's Office attended the National Preparedness Conference in Dallas, Texas on April 18 through April 22, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Planning for Today for Rebuilding Tomorrow". Breakout sessions covered a wide variety of topics including:

- ◆ Planning for children in disasters
- ◆ Shelter operation consideration
- ◆ Community-based disaster coalitions
- ◆ Active shooter considerations
- ◆ Update on Zika outbreak
- ◆ Lessons learned from Ebola

The team-building and information sharing from this conference was invaluable for the participants and will be incorporated as emergency operations plans are revised.

Funding for Zika Reduces PHEP Grant

Health preparedness staff were informed that the CDC has reduced the amount of funding for the Public Health Preparedness (PHEP) Grant to support efforts in combating the Zika Virus. Approximately \$15,000 was reduced from Navajo County's allocation for FY 2017. There have been no details from the CDC on how the funding withheld from the PHEP grant will be spent on Zika.

AzPHA Spring Conference

The Health Preparedness Symposium "Picking up the Pieces After Disaster Strikes" held on April 5, 2016 discussed lessons learned from notable disasters such as the Boston Marathon bombings, Maricopa County flooding disaster, Joplin tornado and the Yarnell Hill fire. All presentations had lessons learned and provided insight to the participants of how coordination, communication and partnerships forged ahead of time make the difference in responding to and recovering from major disasters.

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP)

April 6-7, 2016 - Participants from Emergency Management, Navajo Nation Health Services, Pinon CERT Team member, Forest Service, Apache County, Navajo County Sheriff's Office, and State Forestry attended the two-day HSEEP class held in Holbrook, Arizona. The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) provides a set of guiding principles for exercise programs, as well as a common approach to exercise program management, design and development. Conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. HSEEP exercise and evaluation doctrine is flexible, adaptable, and is for use by stakeholders across the whole community and is applicable for exercises across all mission areas - prevention, protections, mitigation, response and recovery.



YTD Wildfire Statistic as of 5-9-16

465 Human caused fires have burned 28,005 acres



Emergency Management News

Updating Plans - Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Operations

April 26, 2016 - Kicked off the first of several planning sessions for the Navajo County Emergency Operations Plan. BOLDplanning consultants were on hand to demonstrate the software planning tool to Navajo County Emergency Management personnel. In order to make this plan update comprehensive representatives from all of cities and towns in Navajo County were invited to participate in the planning process. Representatives from Winslow, Snowflake-Taylor, Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside learned how to use the planning tool and were excited to be included in the planning process. Additional planning sessions are scheduled with the subject matter experts from each functional area so that the final plan that is developed is all inclusive and realistic for the responding agencies and partners.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans Requesting Public Input

The Sitgreaves Communities and Central Navajo Community Wildfire Protection plans are now posted on the Navajo County website for a public review and comment period May 9, 2016 through June 9, 2016. Once the comment period ends the stakeholder team will review all of the public comments and incorporate the comments where appropriate and present the final plans for the Board of Supervisors and participating jurisdictions review and approval.

Multi-Year Training Plan - MYTEP

Each year the Emergency Management team as part of the grant requirements must submit a three-year training and exercise plan. Navajo County includes local, health, other counties, tribal and private partners to train and exercise together to strengthen our knowledge and practice how to respond together as partners in disaster response and recovery. Each year Katrina Jenkins and Bob Schlesinger solicit input from our partners when developing our training and exercise plan so the training and exercise dollars are focused on what capabilities needs to be improved.

What is a “Red Flag Warning”?

A Red Flag Warning also known as fire weather warning is a forecast warning issued by the United States National Weather Service to inform area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildland fire combustion and rapid spread. This warning is also used to let citizens know that burning is not allowed during these conditions. Only the National Weather Service issues “Red Flag” warnings.

ONE LESS SPARK ONE LESS WILDFIRE

Wildfire Awareness Month
May 2016

We are getting ready, are you?

For more information and resources, visit:
www.keeppgreen.org

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.