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UPPER SKAGIT
VILLAGE OF
MEKORYUK



Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Dear Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council Members,

I am honored to bring you the 2012 NWTEMC Annual Report. Since the beginning of the NWTEMC, we have seen tremendous successes, growth and progress. I am humbled by the work that each of you does on this Council and for our Tribes. When we first met in 2004, with the idea of forming the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council, the "Northwest" in NWTEMC was chosen to represent the eight Tribal Nations of WA State Homeland Security Region I.

Since its inception, the "NW" has grown to mean more than the originating eight Tribes, but now, the greater Pacific Northwest Region of the United States. The membership today includes 25 Tribal Nations that work diligently on assisting 271 Tribes and Native Villages throughout the four State area of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska and 566 Tribes throughout the entire United States.

Our Tribal Nations have come together to promote the true meaning of sovereignty: self determination, self reliance and self governance. In the same token, we recognize that in a true National Disaster, we must be able to come together, to work together, and to respect one another as we plan, prepare, respond and recover. It is in these partnerships that we have fostered that have proven to be what emergency management and homeland security is truly all about. Our goal for 2013 is to continue to grow, learn and share best practices throughout the Nation. We are proud to help carry the National Tribal Emergency Management Council into the new year.

I would like to welcome all of our partners that have joined us over these past four years, and look forward to continuing success in the coming year. Please feel free to peruse the next few pages, as we share some of the exciting things that the NWTEMC has been proud to be a part of.

Sincerely,

Lynda Zambrano

Lynda Zambrano
Executive Director
NWTEMC

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Executive Summary

The Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council (NWTEMC) is a consortium of Tribal Nations throughout Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska that work together To provide guidance and tools for member tribes to develop sustainable and all-hazard approaches to Emergency Management and Homeland Security, through an approach that emphasizes both inter and intra jurisdictional cooperation to maximize resources in mutual aid, training, exercises, planning, and equipping by sharing information and best practices.

In Washington State alone, the Tribe's own nearly ten percent of the land mass, represent more than 120,000 Native Americans and house nearly all of the critical infrastructure in Region X, including, but not limited to the International Border with Canada, International Shipping Lanes, Oil Refineries, Naval Bases, Ferry Systems, and the Grand Coulee Dam. Our Tribes have just scratched the service of implementing Emergency Management and Homeland Security programs.

In the past few years alone, our Tribes have been plagued with flooding, fires, high winds, ice storms, and other severe weather incidents, as well as a Tsunami warning that resulted in the evacuation of many of our coastal tribes. We have been included under numerous Presidential Declarations due to the amount of financial loss that our Tribes have suffered. And, in the ongoing threats of a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, and Ark Storm catastrophic flooding incident, as predicted by the USGS, NOAA and NW Universities, we have a great deal more work to do. These cataclysmic incidents, each modeled to produce more than 10-15 times the devastation visited upon the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina on the Pacific NW, make emergency preparedness and the creation of a robust emergency management and services program in Indian Country both critical and essential.

For the past eight years, we have been functioning as the Region X Tribal overlay to FEMA. We assist our Tribes, FEMA, the BIA, the State Emergency Management Divisions (EMD's) and the State Department of Health (DOH's), as well as many other partners, with keeping lines of communication open before, during and after disasters. The NWTEMC has encouraged, sponsored and provided the Train the Trainer and citizen based Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. We have developed a cadre of Tribal Youth that have also taken our CERT courses. We continue to provide NIMS training to our Tribal leadership at all levels, to better prepare our Tribal leaders to work with FEMA and Incident Management Teams in times of need. We have likewise worked with the Tribes to establish Medical Reserve Corps groups and Amateur (HAM) radio groups in many of our reservations. All of this is critical to making our Tribes self-reliant and better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Our organization is formed under a charter and by-laws and received our 501C3 status in 2008. Our organization requires a resolution from the governing body of each Tribe, so that there is no question that the organization is fully supported by the Tribal Governments that we represent. We make all of our information currently available to all Tribes within the Region, and Nationally, and will continue to do so, expanding our reach in the future.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Our current Executive Director, Lynda Zambrano, has already been doing some incredible work, expanding our Regional efforts to include Tribes across the country. Her efforts have resulted in the highest honors paid to a civilian of service as she has brought attention to the NWTEMC by the US Public Health Service, the US Dept of the Interior, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and is one of very few individuals ever to be so recognized. She was also recently recognized for her service to Indian Country and the Nation when she was inducted into the International Women of Emergency Management's Hall of Fame this October at the International Association of Emergency Management's Annual Conference. She has been instrumental in pulling together all of our Tribal partner's in this region and currently hosts the largest emergency management and homeland security conference in the Nation. She is a great spokesperson for our Tribal Nations and works diligently to assure that our Tribal Nation's are better prepared.

In March of 2012, the NWTEMC received National recognition as a valued partner and resource when FEMA included NWTEMC by name in the National Disaster Response Framework. See Page 218 of the NDRF.

We were also honored to have such distinguished guests join us this year for our annual conference, to include presentations by Steve Golubic, Director of Tribal Affairs, US Dept of Homeland Security, Richard Flores, Special Advisor to National Tribal Affairs, Robert Holden, Deputy Director, National Congress of American Indians, Mary Selecky, Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health and Brigadier General Bret Daugherty, Adjutant General of the State of Washington Army and Air National Guard Forces, to name a few.

We look forward to the ongoing efforts of the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council and the good work that has been a result of this tremendous organization. We celebrate in our successes and our hands go up to all those that have helped our NWTEMC become what it is today. We hope that you will read through these pages and share in the accomplishments that NWTEMC has been honored to be a part of.

With Warmest Regards,

Your Executive Board of Directors

Claude Cox, Chairman of the NWTEMC Del Ostenberg, Vice Chairman of the NWTEMC
 Kevin Lenon, Secretary Carl Rebstock, 2nd Secretary
 Jim Sande, Treasurer

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Emergency Operations

2012 saw several Presidential Declarations of Disaster in the State of Washington, and many more across the Nation. Many of our Tribal Nations were severely impacted by one or more of the following declarations and NWTEMC continues to assist those impacted by the following declarations:

[Washington Severe Storm, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding \(DR-4083\)](#)

Incident period: Friday, July 20, 2012 to Friday, July 20, 2012

Major Disaster Declaration declared on Tuesday, September 25, 2012

[Washington Table Mountain Fire \(FM-5020\)](#)

Incident period: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Thursday, September 20, 2012

[Washington Peavine Fire \(FM-5018\)](#)

Incident period: Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Thursday, September 13, 2012

[Washington Poison Fire \(FM-5017\)](#)

Incident period: Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Wednesday, September 12, 2012

[Washington Byrd Canyon Fire \(FM-5015\)](#)

Incident period: Monday, September 10, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Monday, September 10, 2012

[Washington Barker Canyon Fire \(FM-5013\)](#)

Incident period: Sunday, September 9, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Sunday, September 9, 2012

[Washington 1st Canyon Fire \(FM-5012\)](#)

Incident period: Sunday, September 9, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Sunday, September 9, 2012

[Washington Highway 141 Fire Complex \(FM-5011\)](#)

Incident period: Wednesday, September 5, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Thursday, September 6, 2012

[Washington Taylor Bridge Fire \(FM-5005\)](#)

Incident period: Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Fire Management Assistance Declaration declared on Tuesday, August 14, 2012

[Washington Severe Winter Storm, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides \(DR-4056\)](#)

Incident period: Saturday, January 14, 2012 to Monday, January 23, 2012

Major Disaster Declaration declared on Monday, March 5, 2012

For several of these events, NWTEMC traveled to the affected areas, gathering photos, reports and maintained communications and the dissemination of daily situation reports to assist in the response.

During the recovery phase, NWTEMC continues to assist our affected Tribes maneuver the complicated FEMA process, to include understanding the Stafford Act, policies, procedures and paperwork necessary to assure a successful on-going Disaster Assistance process for those impacted Tribes.

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Tribes that want to exercise their sovereign rights to FEMA assistance following a Presidential Declared Disaster must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in place. In 2012, the NWTEMC finalized two more Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to bring the total number of plans that we have assisted with to eight.

Since the H1N1 Flu breakout in 2009, NWTEMC has continued a page on our website devoted to sharing information on any health-related emerging threats. NWTEMC also distributed a great deal of educational materials, provided coordination amongst our Tribal partners during the activation of our EOCs, as well as partnered with the North Portland Area Indian Health Board and the Washington State Department of Health to produce a webinar regarding the 2012 Annual Tribal Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Conference, now available at <http://www.emforum.org>. The [Webinar Recording](#) is a large file and requires [Windows Media Player](#) or [Windows Media Components for QuickTime](#) or a similar product to view. The [Transcript](#), [Audio Podcast](#), presentation [Slides](#), as well as [Ratings and Reviews](#), are available from the [Background Page](#). Our public health section continues to keep timely information at the forefront.

NWTEMC worked very closely with the Indian Health Service, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the North Portland Area Indian Health Board, the American Indian Health Commission and the Department of Health to lead the planning group for the 2012 Annual Tribal Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Conference. This year's conference was attended by close to 250 attendees, representing more than 40 Tribal Nations, Federal, State, and Local partners.

NWTEMC further worked toward acquiring equipment, materials and supplies to better prepare our Tribal communities. To date, the NWTEMC has distributed 1260 emergency preparedness kits, backpacks and duffle bags to Tribal country, conducting a total of 22 CERT classes delivered throughout our membership.

The NWTEMC was very proud this year to have been asked to have their website linked to most of our emergency management partners. Many of our partners redirected their internet traffic to our site for the most current updates during our declared disasters and we now partner with FEMA Headquarters, DHS Headquarters, National Congress of American Indians, Ready.gov, the Montana Working Group of Tribes and the Michigan Tribal Emergency Management Council, to name a few. Social Media has taken on a new importance in Emergency Management and NWTEMC now has several facebook pages and a twitter account.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

TRAINING



CERT logo



NWTEMC CERT Logo

NWTEMC has focused on better preparing our Tribal communities by bringing Community Emergency Response Team training to our Tribal nations. We also had the opportunity to work with our Tribal elders in designing the NWTEMC CERT Logo. This logo was changed from the original logo by removing the skyscrapers and inserting traditional longhouses, while taking out the oak trees and replacing them with the cedars. NWTEMC has conducted many classes over these past four years to include the following:



Muckleshoot CERT class



Kalispel Summer Youth CERT Class

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Trainings

Muckleshoot Tribe: February 20-22, 2009

Sauk-Suiattle Tribe CERT: March 2009

Sauk-Suiattle CERT: May 2009

Train-the-Trainer Refresher Class for NWTEMC Trainers: June 5-7, 2009

Snoqualmie Tribal CERT: June 15-17, 2009

Yakama Nation CERT: July 17-19, 2009

Train-the-Trainer Class, hosted by Tulalip Tribes OEM: August 1-2, 2009

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal CERT: September 11-13, 2009

Makah Tribe CERT: November 2009

Lummi Tribe CERT: December 2009

All Tribe: EMPG Grant Writing Training – Attendees complete grant application with the assistance of NWTEMC and State EMD personnel: February 8th, 2010

Lower Elwha Tribe CERT: February 2010

Muckleshoot Tribe CERT May 2010

Nisqually Tribe CERT August 2010

Nooksack Tribe CERT August 2010

Quileute Tribe CERT October 2010

Lower Elwha Tribe CERT December 2010

Muckleshoot Tribe CERT February 2011

Nisqually Tribe CERT April 2011

Kalispel Tribe CERT June 2011

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Lummi Nation CERT: April, 2012

Colville Nation CERT: June, 2012

Nisqually Tribe CERT: October, 2012

ICS/NIMS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, 800 for all our member Tribes

Emergency Management 101 for member Tribes

HAM Radio

MRC Training

NWTEMC also had the opportunity to serve as evaluators and observers for several table top and functional exercises in 2012, to include a casino active shooter event and Alaska Shield. All together, we have trained more than 1500 Tribal members in Emergency Management, Homeland Security, CERT, HAM and Medical Reserve Corps. Here are a few of the comments that the NWTEMC has received regarding our efforts:

"Thank you once again for an excellent CERT training last weekend. The response has been great. I have had several individual conversations with the CERT members and have heard nothing but positive feedback. The best part is that this is their team."

- Glenn Yorks, Emergency Manager, Nooksack Tribe, Oct 13, 2010

Lynda and Del,

On behalf of Ferry County Citizens Corps Council and members of the Ferry County CERT, I want to thank you for allowing us to participate in the CERT classroom training last week. You both demonstrated great care and confidence in conducting the training and I also wish to extend our appreciation to Rick, Denny and Jim in sharing their expertise. You have a great team of instructors. I am now looking forward to attending the Train the Trainer class in Everett, WA next week. I offer my assistance in any way in the future to help in any way I can.

By the way, after the four Ferry County SAR members went home Thursday, fresh from your Disaster Exercise, we were deployed on the Ferry County Disaster Drill at the airport and both the WSP IC and the Ferry County Under Sheriff and DEM commented on the professionalism of the SAR unit in supporting the EMS, Fire Department and Law Enforcement officials, particularly in our ICS performance. The Under Sheriff even said that he would be proud and happy to have SAR - CERT help on any accident he was called on in the future. I'll give you both credit for getting us prepared for that. Sincerely, Sam C.M. Sam Jenkins

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council



2009-2011 were very exciting times for Tribal MRC development in the Northwest. As of 2012, current NWTEMC member units included the NWTEMC unit, Tulalip, Nooksack, Samish and Lower Elwha. Handbooks were developed by the NWTEMC for all of these units. Orientation and training is always being developed and deployed to our Tribal units.

MRC activities performed include:

- Units participated in various tabletops and communications exercises throughout the year.

Conferences/Committee Membership

NWTEMC and NWTEMC member Tribes continue to participate in several conferences and participate on several committees that allow us to share information and demonstrate best practices that are taking place in Indian Country today.

Conferences attended:

- WA State LEPC/SERC/TERC conference
- National Public Health Spirit Mountain, Oregon
- National BIA Fire, Pala, California
- TAC-G Conference, Green Bay, Wisconsin and Albuquerque, New Mexico
- National Congress of American Indians
- "Empowering our Communities" Conference hosted by Sault Ste. Marie Band

Committees Representing Tribal interests:

- Statewide Alerting Communications (SAC) Committee for Public Health (Lynda Zambrano)
- Regional Advisory Council to FEMA (FEMA Region 10) (Claude Cox)
- Critical Infrastructure sub-committee of WA State Homeland Security Committee
- State Interoperability Executive Committee (Prev: Jim Fernando, Current: Carl Rebstock)
- WA State Emergency Management Council (Lynda Zambrano)
- NWWARN Gatekeeper (Lynda Zambrano)
- Homeland Security Centers of Excellence (Carl Rebstock)

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Trainings:

- Hazmat Training at Hammer Facility, Richland WA
- Emergency Prep Course at the Salish and Kootenai Tribe, June 20th 2012
- Scammon Bay, Alaska to meet with the Tribal Council, July 2nd – July 10th, 2012
- Administration for Children and Family Services, July 11, 2012

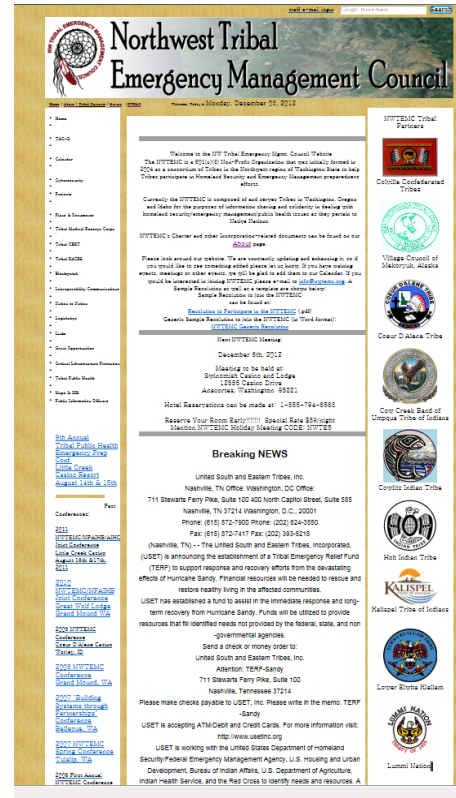
Public Outreach

NWTEMC conducts meetings open to the public. All Tribes are encouraged to send a representative. In order to get as many Tribes involved as possible, and let representatives see other Tribal lands and facilities, the meeting is hosted by a different member tribe each month.

Website

The NWTEMC website continues to be the primary conduit and most important tool that we have for sharing information. The NWTEMC made a commitment to our members that this website would always keep current and up to date relevant information that continues to be updated on a weekly basis. In years past, Tribes also hosted the website. This past fall, NWTEMC moved to Network Solutions in order to increase content capabilities and have an off-site location in case of local power failures.

The NWTEMC site features a documents page that offers templates of most major documents that are recommended in most emergency management-homeland security programs. We offer these documents free of charge to be used and modified by our Tribal Governments. The site also offers a grants page that lists all current grant offerings, and also provides for grant templates that can be used by our Tribal Partners. Our calendar offers a number of valuable notifications, to include upcoming training opportunities, meetings and events. Our calendar sends out automatic notifications to our members every weekend, so that a new and fresh calendar of events will appear in their email each and every Monday morning. The NWTEMC site can be found at <http://nwtemc.org>.



With the advancements in technology and our desire to make the most out of this important tool, we have also made the following changes to the site this year.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Added NOAA National Warnings map
 Improved Trumba calendar
 Web 2.0 media outreach:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- You Tube Page
- Flickr photo page
- Public Information Officers Resources
- Many new and updated resources on the links page
- National Tribal Emergency Management Council



Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NWTEMC>
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Visit us on our You Tube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NWTEMC>
 Follow us on twitter: <http://twitter.com/nwtemc>



NWTEMC had a huge year with Social Media, adding close to 1,000 friends to our NW Tribal EMC page and our National Tribal Emergency Management Group. We use our facebook pages for sharing additional information, alerts, and training opportunities while creating a landing page for all of our partners to reach us. We have networked with Tribes across the Nation and the World. FEMA, National Congress of American Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, US Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management –National Interagency Fire Center and Indian Country Today are just a few of the many partners that we now have posting to our pages. Help us to continue to spread the good work by liking us at www.facebook.com/nwtribalemcc.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Tribal Emergency Management Summit a Historic Success

By Lynda Zambrano, NWTEMC Executive Director



Claude Cox, NTEMC President shakes hands with Robert DesRosier, Disaster and Emergency Services Manager for the Blackfoot Nation

For the first time, the National Tribal Emergency Management Council met with Montana Tribal representatives on February 7, 2012 at the Northern Quest Casino in Spokane, Washington to discuss emergency management issues facing tribal nations in the Pacific Northwest and Montana during the first Tribal EM Summit between the two groups. Montana tribal leaders from the Blackfoot Nation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT), and Fort Belknap Reservation presented and addressed critical emergency management issues on their tribal lands to the National Tribal Emergency Management Council members. All of the Montana tribal members belong to the Montana Indian Nations Working Group, which meets regularly to discuss disaster and emergency topics pertinent to Montana tribes.

In addition to sharing common disaster concerns between the NTEMC and MINWG, the Montana Tribal representatives were formally invited to join the NTEMC. Their membership to the NTEMC means that Montana tribes will be able to report and collaborate with other national Tribal members about their emergency management concerns through a widely recognized and acclaimed website.

Montana Tribal members discussed topics which covered border security, mutual aid agreements, grant funding, protection of cultural resources, types of disasters unique to Montana tribes, criminal activity, political challenges with government agency partners in addition to addressing past, present and future concerns with disaster and emergency management issues. The NTEMC and the MINWG members found strong common ground during the presentation material, which helped cement the alliance between the two tribal groups.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council



Robert DesRosier, Disaster and Emergency Services Manager for the Blackfoot Nation is leading discussion of tribal concerns facing the Blackfeet.

Robert DesRosier, the Disaster and Emergency Management Services Manager for the Blackfoot Nation, reported that grant funding and financial support from state and federal partners is the largest challenge to help tribes with disaster planning and staffing needs. Members from the Fort Belknap, the CKST, and the NTEMC all agreed with DesRosier that grant funding is critical for tribal emergency management programs to continue

Dale Nelson, Emergency Manager for the CKST, addressed the 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) which they have with the Blackfeet Nation. In early January 2012, the Blackfeet Nation suffered wild land fire damages from a rare winter firestorm that was ignited by a downed power line from high winds. DesRosier sent out a state wide request for assistance, and the CSKT responded quickly by sending wild land fire crews and engines to aid the Blackfeet.



Dale Nelson, Emergency Manager for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation discusses the CSKT mutual aid response to the Blackfeet Nations wildfire in January 2012

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Gilbert 'Buddy' Horn, Emergency Manager from the Fort Belknap Reservation in the northeastern region of Montana, discussed their 2011 flooding event which resulted from a high winter snowpack that rapidly melted during spring months. Horn remarked that the tribe is still working with FEMA to finalize the federal disaster declaration they received from FEMA Region 8.



Gilbert 'Buddy' Horn, Emergency Services Manager of the Fort Belknap Tribe remarks upon their 2011 flooding event which received a Federal Disaster Declaration from FEMA Region 8

DesRosier provided additional tribal emergency management 'best practices' documents to Claude Cox, President of the NTEMC and Lynda Zambrano, Executive Director, NTEMC to review critical issues which concern all Montana tribes. The collaboration between the NTEMC and the MINWG was cemented by shared concerns, topics, and challenges facing their tribal nations in these modern times. The importance of tribal nations becoming allies through joining ranks via the NTEMC was enthusiastically supported by all in attendance. DesRosier further added that the MINWG will meet soon to discuss officially joining the NWTEMC.

In August of 2012, the NWTEMC introduced the new Interim Board of Directors for the National Tribal Emergency Management Council. Help us to welcome the following:

Claude Cox, Del Ostenberg, Jim Sande, Kevin Lenon, Carl Rebstock, Glenn Zaring, Josh Garcia, Robert DesRosier, Judge Thomas Weismuller, Ken Choke, James Akerelrea, Greg Gould, Richard Broncheau, Dean Sawyer, Matthew Peterson and Dave Nelson. Additional information along with photos and bios will be located on websites, www.nwtemc.org and www.ntemc.org beginning in January, 2012.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

What People Are Saying About the NWTEMC-NTEMC

Submitted by William Wiley, National All-Hazards Emergency Manager
 Managers, Emergency Mangers and Coordinators,

The NW and National Tribal Emergency Councils (NW-TEMC & N-TEMC) report that their inter-tribal emergency systems are up and functioning and that they are maintaining close contact with all of their member tribes (most all tribes in WA/OR/ID are included). NW-TEMC reports that they continue to be in contact with tribes who report they continue to be coping with their own resources.

All member tribes in WA, the most affected state, have Tribal Citizens Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and most tribes have Medical Reserve Corps and Amateur (HAM) Radio groups on the reservations. NW-TEMC has trained FEMA certified trainers, who have in-turn trained CERT groups on the reservations and they were equipped by NW-TEMC to assist tribal members in All-Hazards emergencies. These tribes assist themselves in the traditional spirit of self sufficiency and self reliance, and the tribes and the NW-TEMC and N-TEMC are to be commended in their efforts

The storm continues (see below). It is being described as an “ARk Storm” (Atmospheric River Storm), or a series of storms carrying moist air from the tropics to the west coast. The question remains is this going to be a 5 year, 10 year, or 500 year ‘ARk Storm Event’. See the USGS / Calif. Institute of Technology (CalTech) report and video explaining ARk Storms. <http://urbanearth.gps.caltech.edu/winter-storm/>.

Similar conditions causing a series of storms can lead to heavy snow such as was seen in the northern tier states last winter.

Please share with your Emergency Management Teams, tribes and others who may benefit from a better understanding of such storms, and encourage preparations for them, as predictions indicate we can expect to see such prolonged incidents, and increasingly intense incidents in the future.

And please take this opportunity to update your Emergency Contact Rosters, for both the 24/7 contact information for your office/agency’s Emergency Management Team, and for those tribes we serve (their Leaders, and Emergency Management Points of Contact [POC]). Rosters of the 24/7 contact information for the federal, state and local emergency agencies/offices that you might need during such incidents should also be updated, including their Tribal Liaisons [Corps of Engineers, Indian Health Service, Indian Health Board, your regional and national tribal emergency management/services organizations, volunteer organizations [Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other NGOs].

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This group, and the National TEMC that they have organized to join other regional TEMCs around the nation, have saved us all (federal and state agencies) enormous amounts of effort and cost, and saved tribes and their peoples enormous amounts of pain and suffering, as well as damage and expense, by assisting them in becoming NIMS compliant, self reliant, and prepared to implement their own ICS, CERT, Medical Reserve Corps, and Amateur Radio (HAM) groups to respond to the tribes' emergencies.

It's your hard work (the NWTEMC) and your team of support and expertise.

"Thanks again for your help. We had an incident yesterday with high tides, high wind and rain. It washed out the beach road and the pumps were activated to remove the water that was threatening a house. We are monitoring the situation."

Hollie Kaufman, Lower Elwha Tribe

We love NWTEMC
Dean Sawyer
Emergency Management Planner
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

I knew you would have some resources!

Thanks for your assistance!
-wes-
Wes Jones
Department of Public Safety
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Sometimes I don't think that anyone really knows just how important the work is that NWTEMC does. You guys will save lives. Each and every single day that you work, teaching the CERT classes, updating the websites, working with the youth and the elders, helping us all get better prepared is going to save lives. Thank you for all that you do. Harmony

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

*We are
public health.*



Inset photo of H1N1 immunization drive through clinic.
Photo courtesy of Del Ostenberg, Colville Indian Reservation.

**We work to prevent
public health emergencies.**

In the past, tribal populations in the Northwest were devastated by pandemics. To ensure that this loss of life does not happen again, Northwest tribes have formed important partnerships so that they will be ready to protect their communities from public health threats.



**Northwest Center for
Public Health Practice**
School of Public Health, University of Washington
www.nwcpdp.org/we-are-public-health

Submitted by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

We are public health.

We work to prevent public health emergencies.

In the past, tribal populations in the Northwest were devastated by pandemics. To ensure that this loss of life does not happen again, Northwest tribes have formed important partnerships so that they will be ready to protect their communities from public health threats.

In 2004, leaders of eight Washington tribes created a consortium to effectively respond to the public health emergencies facing their communities. This consortium of tribes has since gained formal 501c3 status and is called the Northwest Tribal Emergency Council (NWTEMC). Membership in NWTEMC has grown to include 27 of the 29 federally-recognized tribes in Washington State. Tribes from Alaska, Oregon and Idaho have also joined the council.

During the H1N1 crisis of 2009, many tribes played a leading role in making sure that their communities were vaccinated against H1N1. One tribal community that was ready for H1N1 was the Colville Indian Reservation located in eastern Washington.

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

Reservation leaders coordinated a team that included the tribal departments of Corrections, Fire and Rescue, Health, Police, Natural Resources Enforcement, and Risk Management. Other partners included Indian Health Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Red Cross, and Okanogan County Emergency Management.

This team organized a successful drive-through immunization clinic. Commenting on this experience and other public health preparedness activities, Del Ostenberg, Safety Officer for the Colville Indian Reservation, says, "We hold our sovereignty close but at the same time want to work well with our neighboring counties. We also want to have good working relationships with state and federal governments."

About the work of NWTEMC, Ostenberg says, "Creating good working relationships before an incident happens ensures that during an emergency the best work for the people can be done. These relationships are what NWTEMC and National Tribal Emergency Management Council (NTEMC) work to promote." (In addition to his work on the Colville Indian Reservation, Ostenberg serves as Vice Chair on the NWTEMC and NTEMC board of directors.)

John Erickson, Special Assistant for the Washington State Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response, agrees that strong partnerships are critical to effective public health emergency response in the Northwest. "The collaborative spirit that everyone comes to the table with is extremely valuable. It allows a wide range of federal, state, and tribal organizations to respond quickly to any kind of public health emergency."

NWTEMC provides technical assistance to tribes in navigating the unique relationships that come into play when sovereign tribes partner with state, local, or federal governments. These partnerships are considered government-to-government relationships and the right of tribes to direct their own responses to public health emergencies is acknowledged and respected.

To develop the infrastructure and capacity they need to keep their communities healthy, NWTEMC encourages tribes to be part of the Tribal Medical Reserve Corps. This program is part of the national Medical Reserve Corps program started in 2002 in response to the events of September 2001.

Looking to the future, Lynda Zambrano, Executive Director of NWTEMC says, "There is a brighter future in public health preparedness for the entire nation as we continue to develop relationships at the tribal, local, state, and federal levels that recognize the rich history, cultures, and customs of our individual tribal nations, while respecting sovereignty and all that our tribes have to offer in this process."

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

In 2012, the **9th Annual Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference** was lead by the NWTEMC, in conjunction with more partners and attendees than in the history of this event.

1652 emails were received and answered by the NWTEMC staff regarding this year's conference. Early on in this year's planning process, it was decided that a heavier emphasis would be placed on the respective leadership of each organization taking the lead on discussions, rather than delegating that responsibility to staff. The leaders of the respective organizations met through conference calls, individual telephone calls, emails and face to face meetings. In addition to the leadership communications, a planning committee comprised of individuals appointed by the leadership also conducted routine Conference Calls.

More than 40 Tribal Nations were represented at this year's conference to include the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Scammon Bay, Alaska | Nooksack, Washington |
| Village of Mekuryuk, Alaska | Quileute, Washington |
| Nez Perce, Idaho | Quinault, Washington |
| Blackfeet Nation, Montana | Sauk Suiattle, Washington |
| Fort Belknap, Montana | Shoalwater Bay, Washington |
| Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Oregon | Skokomish, Washington |
| Coquille, Oregon | Snoqualmie, Washington |
| Grande Ronde, Oregon | Spokane, Washington |
| Chehalis, Washington | Swinomish, Washington |
| Colville, Washington | Tulalip, Washington |
| Cowlitz, Washington | Upper Skagit, Washington |
| Hoh, Washington | Choctaw and Chickasaw |
| Jamestown, Washington | Miskitu Indian |
| Kalispel, Washington | Whitefish River Band of Ojibwe, Wisconsin |
| Lower Elwha, Washington | Little River Band of Ottawa, Michigan |
| Lummi, Washington | White Earth Nation, Minnesota |
| Makah, Washington | Juaneno Band of Mission Indians |
| Muckleshoot, Washington | Tlingit, Alaska |
| Nisqually, Washington | Flathead Nation, Montana |

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Federal Agencies in attendance this year included, but were not limited to:

Federal Emergency Management Agency	Admin for Children and Family Services
US Dept of Homeland Security	United States Army Corps of Engineers
US Public Health Service	US DHS Grants Division
Indian Health Service (I.H.S.)	US EPA
Intergovernmental Affairs, TSA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	Division of National Protection – Critical Infrastructure
DHS Office of Emergency Communications	
SAMHSA	

State and Local Agencies in attendance this year included, but were not limited to:

Washington State Department of Health	WA Health Care Authority
WA State Emergency Management Division	King County Health
WA State Military Department	King County EMD
WA State Department of Transportation	Snohomish County EMD – MRC
Seattle Passports	Oregon State Health
Seattle District Corps of Engineers	Mason County Public Health
WA Department of National Resources	Idaho Public Health

Organizations in Attendance included:

American Red Cross	WA Assoc of Community and Migrant Health Centers
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board	WA American Indian Health Board
Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council	Pan American Health Organization
National Tribal Emergency Management Council	Washington Youth Academy
Northwest Center for Public Health Practice	Western WA University
Seattle Indian Health Board	University of Washington - Seattle
Pierce College, Centers of Excellence	

Total Number that registered as of 08/09/2012: 266.

Total Number of registrants: approximately 250

Total Number that booked hotel rooms: 119

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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

There are three main areas that separate the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council and the National Tribal Emergency Management Council from all other entities:

1. The NWTEMC-NTEMC remains committed to Sovereign Immunity, assisting our Tribal partners with building infrastructure and internal capacity. There are many groups out there that want to come into the Tribe and be the Incident Commanders, the Incident Management Team, and the First Responders. We want to continue to help our Tribal Nations remain in the driver's seat of the their own incidents, and the best way that we can assure this is to continue our work in the areas of sharing information, training, skill sets, resources and best practices.
2. We believe that Public Safety and Public Health are Trust Responsibilities of the Federal Government, and therefore, do not charge dues or membership fees to be a part of our organization. Although this makes sustainability difficult at times, we do not believe that our Tribal Nations should have to pay for what the Federal, State and Local Partners are receiving in the way of grants and technical assistance. Therefore, we continue to work hard on bringing grant dollars into the individual Tribal Nations, training opportunities to our Tribal Lands, and Technical Assistance to Indian Country that continues to help build our emergency management and homeland security programs, free of charge.
3. We are not a response organization. We believe very strongly in our mission:

To provide guidance and tools for member tribes to develop sustainable and all-hazard approaches to Emergency Management and Homeland Security, through an approach that emphasizes both inter and intra jurisdictional cooperation to maximize resources in mutual aid, training, exercises, planning, and equipping by sharing information and best practices.

Because we are a very small non-profit, we have relied heavily on consortium grants, specific contract work that is provided at severely discounted rates for our member Tribes and the private sector. This year, the NWTEMC has partnered with the National Joint Powers Alliance®, a national municipal contracting agency committed to serving our Members purchasing needs. We are both driven to provide efficient public service through contract purchasing solutions and other related programs. We are only able to do this as we work together, creating a unified purchasing alliance that is valued by both NJPA and the NWTEMC-NTEMC. We will now have access to more than 160 companies that have been vetted through this partnership.

Stayed tuned for so much more ahead as we bring in 2013 together!


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Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

*...together our journey begins
 in the **RIGHT**
DIRECTION*



Northwest Tribal
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 Council

 Colville Confederated Tribes	 Kalispel Tribe of Indians	 Nez Perce Tribe	 Samish Indian Nation	 Spokane Tribe of Indians
 Coeur D'Alene Tribe	 Lower Elwha Klallam	 Nisqually Indian Tribe	 Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	 Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
 Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe	 Lummi Nation	 Nooksack Indian Tribe	 Native Village of Scammon Bay	 Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
 Cowlitz Indian Tribe	 Native Village of Mekoryuk	 Quinalt Indian Nation	 Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	 Tulalip Tribes
 Hoh Indian Tribe	 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	 Quileute Nation	 Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	 Upper Skagit Tribe



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