



**NATHPO**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

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## Notice of Initiation of NATHPO Disaster Preparedness Project and Request for Information

NATHPO is pleased to be assisting the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office with the preparation of a report on Tribal Preservation Planning Needs in Case of Emergency, a project made possible by National Park Service (below, "Disaster Preparedness Project"). We understand your time and resources are stretched thin, but this project will gather information relevant to tribal historic preservation and requires your robust participation.

Based on recent experience, tribes are likely to be responding to more frequent and more intense natural disasters that jeopardize irreplaceable cultural and historic tribal resources. This study, therefore, is a tremendous opportunity for tribes and other stakeholders involved in disaster preparedness to obtain information regarding best practices in disaster preparedness and mitigation and to identify gaps in the coordination and funding necessary to support tribes in protecting valued, irreplaceable resources.

### **Requested Information:**

For purposes of gathering information for the Disaster Preparedness Project, NATHPO requests to be contacted by tribes that have been impacted by natural disasters (including but not limited to hurricanes and other storms, flooding, fire, wind, and earthquake) or other emergencies that have damaged or put at risk cultural and historic resources. Specifically, NATHPO is seeking to speak with tribal representatives, including but not limited to THPOs, who were involved with, or are aware of the tribal offices involved with, the tribe's response to such event.

Areas of interest for NATHPO include, but are not limited to:

- How the event impacted cultural or historic resources;
- How the tribe responded to the event and the resulting positive or negative impact on the cultural and historic resources;
- Whether the tribe now has a disaster preparedness plan that involves the THPO or otherwise includes steps to protect cultural and historic resources;
- The experiences of tribes in coordinating with other stakeholders in disaster response (including federal, state and local emergency response or other agencies) to protect cultural and historic resources; and
- Funding needs for tribes and THPOs related to disaster and emergency response as it impacts cultural and historic resource protection.

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NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.

NATHPO expects that the scope of the inquiry and Disaster Preparedness Report may further evolve based on information obtained from participants in the project and other stakeholders. NATHPO is also prepared to honor any requests to protect the location or other information related to the cultural or historic resources impacted, as deemed appropriate by a tribe participating in the study.

NATHPO is seeking 10-20 case studies pulled from the research for inclusion in the Disaster Preparedness Report. That Report will be made available for use by all Tribes and THPOs, as well as federal, state, local and private entities that respond to natural disasters and emergencies and who can or can be expected to coordinate with Tribes and THPOs regarding such events. We expect the Report to be completed by March 2016.

**Next Steps if You Would Like to Participate:**

If you believe your tribe may be able to assist with the Disaster Preparedness Project by being interviewed by NATHPO, please email [THPOPREP@gmail.com](mailto:THPOPREP@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience to let NATHPO know if your tribe has experienced natural disasters or other emergencies that have damaged or put at risk cultural or historic resources over the past 10 years and is willing to be interviewed by phone about possible participation in this study. This email address may also be used by tribes and other stakeholders to send information to NATHPO that you believe may be helpful to this study.

Questions? Feel free to contact NATHPO at (202) 628-8476 or send an email message to [THPOPREP@gmail.com](mailto:THPOPREP@gmail.com)

We thank you in advance for considering devoting your valuable time to participation in this important Disaster Preparedness Research Project.