



# Having an Emergency Management Program Benefits Tribal Community Safety

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Disasters can create hardships, especially among Tribal Nation communities that are at high risk of experiencing disasters. From hurricanes to tornadoes to wildfires and tsunamis, Native American communities have been disproportionately affected by these and other disasters. By creating disaster preparedness plans, communities could recover from the impacts better and stronger than if they had had done little or no planning at all.

## **Tribal Emergency Managers Strengthen Their Communities**

Disasters can cause loss of life and damage to buildings, land, and infrastructure. They can have devastating consequences for Tribal Nations' economic, social, and environmental well-being. Preparing for them does not happen overnight.

Disaster preparedness is critical to ensuring the safety and welfare of Tribal Nation communities. With natural disasters becoming more frequent and intense, now, more than ever, is the time to develop effective strategies that can reduce the impacts of disasters that can affect your Tribal Nation.

Individual and community preparedness is top of mind for Tribal emergency managers. They work hard to get the resources they need to successfully maintain a healthy community. They learn about and understand the FEMA disaster grant process and programmatic requirements to obtain funding and request a federally declared disaster.

Tribal emergency managers focus on reducing the short- and long-term effects of disasters to life and property and use their expertise and experience to create disaster response plans and hazard mitigation plans. They know the importance of keeping their Tribal leaders informed about potential impacts to their people, infrastructures, and economy.

## **Tribal Leaders Have a Critical Role in Emergency Management**

Tribal leaders, elders, and officials are instrumental to the success of their Tribal Nation's disaster planning. When leaders understand emergency management processes and how their emergency managers work during disasters, they can help to reduce devastating impacts that disasters make. Leaders who regularly meet with their emergency



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managers can help establish mutual aid agreements, fulfill potential resource gaps, and assess community capabilities that can accelerate and enhance disaster response efforts in their community and in neighboring communities.

Consistent engagement between Tribal leaders and Tribal emergency managers better positions the community to be knowledgeable about their preparedness, proactive before and after disasters, and more resilient, which can shorten recovery time.

For more information about how to build an emergency management program, go to FEMA's Quick Tip Guide.