ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance

Requestor: ▮▮▮▮▮▮
Requestor Phone: ▮▮▮▮▮▮
Requestor Email:
Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 12 March 2018
Response Date: 15 March 2018; updated 16 March 2018
Type of TTA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked ASPR TRACIE for the following:
- Examples of best practices related to emergency management/ preparedness programs in Indian Country.
- Examples of updated emergency management program/ plans from Indian Country since the change to the Stafford Act, which supports tribal sovereignty and their ability to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declarations instead of going through the state.
- Studies that highlight unmet needs on tribal lands located in a state that has been impacted by a disaster.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing Topic Collections, namely the Rural Disaster Health Topic Collection (please refer to the Tribal Health Resources section). A list of comprehensively developed Topic Collections can be found here: https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection.

The ASPR TRACIE Team also conducted on online search for resources related to tribal emergency preparedness.

Section I below provides links to resources that highlight best practices and lessons learned specific to tribal emergency management/ preparedness. Section II includes links to tribal emergency preparedness plans. Section III contains links to studies and other resources that highlight unmet state needs specific to Indian Country. Finally, Section IV includes additional related resources such as useful tip sheets for responders. **Note**: Resources marked with an asterisk (*) appear in more than one category.

This request was updated on 3/16/2018 to include resources and commentary provided by an ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert Cadre member from Indian Health Service. Additional resources are incorporated in the sections below and he also noted:
- An IHS and Tribal Facilities in-person training course is available to federal and tribal emergency managers in Albuquerque, NM.
- IHS staff are deployed under the National Response Plan Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 6 and 8 with mission cuts issued by FEMA.

Contact ASPR TRACIE directly for additional information.

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I.   Tribal-Specific Emergency Management/ Preparedness Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Caspi, H. (2013). Video Vitalizes Tribal Emergency Preparedness. EMSWorld.

> The author highlights the video "Strength and Resiliency: Emergency Preparedness for Tribal Leaders and Program Directors—Your Roles and Responsibilities" and provides an overview of tribal emergency preparedness.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2017). Tribal Nursing Home Best Practices: Emergency Preparedness.

> This document highlights five nursing homes in Indian Country and provides information on their emergency preparedness plans, partners, training, and funding sources. It also includes recommendations from these facilities on what has worked well for them as it relates to emergency preparedness.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (n.d.). Ready Indian Country. (Accessed 3/13/2018.)

> Ready Indian Country works with tribal governments to build emergency management capability and partnerships to ensure tribal nation and community resilience. The website provides brochures, public service announcements, and poster resources.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. (2016). Tribal Course Descriptions.

> These courses can help people who live in/work with tribal communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from all types of hazards. Courses are geared towards tribal governments and tribal leaders.

Fronk, M. (2013). Training Video About Emergency Response on Tribal Lands Released.

> The author is one of the experts featured in the video and shares his experience with the production process and tribal preparedness in general.

Granillo, B., Renger, R., Wakelee, J., and Burgess, J. (2010). Utilization of the Native American Talking Circle to Teach Incident Command System to Tribal Community Health Representatives. (Abstract only.) Journal of Community Health. 35(6): 625-634.

> The authors discuss the use of the Native American Talking Circle format as a culturally appropriate method to teach the Incident Command System (ICS), emphasizing that this format has been well received. The authors also discuss limitations of their evaluation and strategies for improving future research efforts.

Heritage Preservation. (2010). Getting Ready in Indian Country: Emergency Preparedness and Response for Native American Cultural Resources.

This document provides emergency preparedness considerations specifically for Native American interests. It has three parts: (1) a brief report exploring the issues and making recommendations to address those issues; (2) an "Inventory of Disaster Resources for Cultural Heritage;" and (3) Preparedness Discussion Questions designed to be shared within and among tribal nations. Taken as a whole, the report and accompanying tools are intended to advance emergency preparedness, stimulate discussion, and inspire new initiatives in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Mountain West Preparedness & Emergency Response Learning Center. (2016). Strategies for Effectively Working with American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Communities.

This report can help emergency health responders better understand: the history of American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) communities; how AI/AN governments are structured; strategies for communicating and establishing trust with AI/AN community representatives; the importance of soliciting tribal consultation; and key definitions that apply to AI/AN communities. Several helpful appendices are included.

National Library of Medicine. (2016). People & Traditions – Tribal Preparedness for Emergencies and Disasters.

This site provides a compilation of resources by the National Library of Medicine related to tribal preparedness for emergencies.

National Tribal Emergency Management Council. (2011). National Tribal Emergency Management Council.

This webpage includes links to information and best practices regarding disasters affecting Indian Country.

* Peate, W. and Mullins, J. (2008). Disaster Preparedness Training for Tribal Leaders. Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology. 3:2.

The authors describe a 1.5 day training session delivered regionally and build upon themes such as tribal sovereignty, and the understanding that preparedness is not a new concept for Native Americans. Three modules covered the roles of public health, bio-terrorism and public health, and community emergency preparedness and response. The authors list challenges to implementing the training and recommendations for refining the curriculum. **Note**: This resource is also listed under Section IV as it identifies unmet needs.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. (2017). HPP In Action: Stories from the Field.

Many of the posts on this webpage include lessons learned from health practitioners and emergency managers in rural areas and American Indian/Alaskan Native communities.

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* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. (2015). [American Indian & Alaskan Native Disaster Preparedness Resource.](#)

> This webpage includes links to emergency preparedness resources that can be helpful to members of American Indian and Alaskan Native communities, including those that serve them.

University of Arizona, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, Mountain West Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center. (2012). [Public Health Emergency Community Preparedness for Tribal and Rural Communities.](#) (Registration required.)

> This interactive, scenario-based course can help health professionals personalize local community emergency preparedness plans; identify public health emergency training and education opportunities where they may incorporate community members; identify and partner with response agencies, community organizations and state/local/federal agencies when preparing for and recovering from a public health emergency; and identify methods of maintaining emergency response plans.

II.   Tribal Emergency Preparedness Plans

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Disaster and Emergency Services. (2010). [Emergency Operations Plan Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Montana](#).

> This plan provides a framework for tribal personnel to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters.

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Indian Health Manual. Part 1 – General. Chapter 10 - Emergency Operations of DIH Field Activities.](#) (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> This document (which is currently being revised) provides a framework for the development of emergency operation plans by Division of Indian Health field facilities (i.e., Indian and Alaska Native healthcare facilities).

Mielke, J., Winchell, D., and Murphy, A. (2014). [Mountain-Plains Consortium: Emergency Preparedness Handbook for Tribal Governments.](#)

> This handbook can help tribes develop and implement their emergency preparedness plans. Section 2 provides information on working with state and federal governments, Section 3 includes information on developing plans, and Section 4 provides sample plans and products.

Squaxin Island Tribe. (2008). [Squaxin Island Tribal Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).](#)

This plan provides a framework for the Squaxin Island Tribal Government to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and human-caused disasters. The Preface includes a statement about the tribe's sovereignty.

* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. (2015). [American Indian & Alaskan Native Disaster Preparedness Resource.](#)

This webpage includes links to emergency preparedness resources that can be helpful to members of American Indian and Alaskan Native communities, including those that serve them. **Note**: This webpage has a section titled, "Tribal Declaration and Disaster Assistance," which states that each region has a tribal liaison who can help tribes seek assistance during state declarations.

Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division. (2016). [Washington State: Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.](#)

This plan provides the framework for statewide mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. Pages 60-61 specifically address tribal nations and include information for tribal members related to the sovereign nature of tribal nations.

III. Tribal Resources Highlighting Unmet State Needs

Barnard, J. (2015). [Responding to Public Health Emergencies on Tribal Lands: Jurisdictional Challenges and Practical Solutions.](#) Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics. 15(2).

The author highlights several critical issues that may challenge government representatives responding to a public health emergency on tribal lands. He reviews several intergovernmental agreements and provides suggestions for creating similar documents.

Bryan, R., McLaughlin Schaefer, R., DeBruyn, L., and Stier, D. (2009). [Public Health Legal Preparedness in Indian Country](#).

This article describes how tribal laws impact public health preparedness. At the time it was published, a study of 70 tribal codes found that 14 (20%) had no clearly identifiable public health provisions and the remaining codes were rarely well-integrated or comprehensive.

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Groom, A., Cheyenne, J., LaRoque, M., et al. (2011). [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations in Tribal Communities](#). American Journal of Public Health. 99:S2.

> The authors highlight "trends of influenza in Indian Country," and list potential issues that may increase some members of this population's vulnerability, such as chronic disease and challenges associated with elderly community members. The authors share information on pandemic influenza preparedness resources available to tribal leaders and their partners in state and local health departments, academia, community-based organizations, and the private sector.

* Peate, W. and Mullins, J. (2008). [Disaster Preparedness Training for Tribal Leaders](#). Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology. 3:2.

> The authors describe a 1.5 day training session delivered regionally and build upon themes such as tribal sovereignty, and the understanding that preparedness is not a new concept for Native Americans. Three modules covered the roles of public health, bio-terrorism and public health, and community emergency preparedness and response. The authors list challenges to implementing the training and recommendations for refining the curriculum. **Note**: This resource is also listed under Section II as it identifies best practices.

Urban Indian Health Institute, Seattle Indian Health Board. (2010). [Evaluation and Assessment of H1N1 Outreach for Urban American Indians/Alaska Natives](#).

> Researchers from the Urban Indian Health Institute hosted two community focus groups and led three key informant interviews with American Indians/Alaskan Natives living in the Seattle/King County area to understand their experience during the 2009 H1/N1 outbreak. The authors share findings and recommendations related to education, messaging, and addressing cultural barriers.

IV. Other Helpful Tribal-Related Resources and Links

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Behavioral Health](#). (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> This webpage provides behavioral health-related links and resources for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes](#). (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> The Office of Direct Service and Contracting Tribes supports Indian Country by providing information, technical assistance, and policy coordination related to twelve functions, including emergency preparedness and security (#12).

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Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Office of Environmental Health and Engineering](). (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering supports Indian Country by helping to ensure healthcare facilities and staff housing are well maintained; providing technical and financial assistance to promote healthy environments related to safe water, wastewater, and solid waste systems; and helping communities achieve their specific goals as it relates to creating a healthier environment.

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Office of Urban Indian Health Programs](). (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> The Urban Indian Health Program provides health services to urban city areas, as well as supports contracts and grants to 34 urban health programs funded under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Indian Health Service. (n.d.). [Project TRANSAM.]() (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> This webpage provides information on Project TRANSAM, which is a Civilian-Military Cooperative Action Program between the IHS and the Department of Defense. This program helps build capacity for tribal health and emergency services by distributing excess medical equipment and supplies from closed military bases and other sources to Indian County. **Note**: An ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member from IHS noted that there is also an Ambulance Program through Project TRANSAM. Depending on the funds available, this program can provide refurbished ambulances to high priority tribes. For more information, contact the [ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center.]()

United South and Eastern Tribes. (n.d.). [Committees](). (Accessed 3/16/2018.)

> The United South and Eastern Tribes has a Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee that is co-located with IHS in the Nashville, TN region. Contact information for this committee and others can be found on this webpage. **Note**: An ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre Member from IHS noted that this committee has a small-scale stockpile of available emergency management equipment that is available for use in the event of a disaster. For more information, contact the [ASPR TRACIE Assistance Center.]()

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2009). [Cultural Card: A Guide to Build Cultural Awareness: American Indian and Alaska Native]().

> This guide provides basic information for federal disaster responders and other service providers who may be deployed or otherwise assigned to provide or coordinate services in American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). Tips for Disaster Responders: Cultural Awareness When Working in Indian Country Post Disaster.

This tip sheet for behavioral health responders outlines the types of traumatic events that can occur in Indian Country and examples of effective response techniques such as use of traditional teachings and talking circles.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). Tips for Disaster Responders: Understanding Historical Trauma When Responding to an Event in Indian Country. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Disaster Technical Assistance Center.

This tip sheet for responders provides a description of the effects of historical trauma on Native Americans, and tips for how responders can respond effectively to a disaster or other traumatic event in Indian Country.

Links to Agencies and Organizations:

Bureau of Indian Affairs. Emergency Management Division.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute. Tribal Curriculum.

Indian Health Service. Key Leaders.

Indian Health Service, California Area. Disaster Preparedness.

Mountain West Preparedness & Emergency Response Learning Center.

National Congress of American Indians. Emergency Management.

National Tribal Emergency Management Council.

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