



Douglas A. Ducey  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

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Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

September 30, 2021

NGAZ-TAG

SUBJECT: Tribal Consultation Annual Report

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

The Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs respectfully submits its Annual Tribal Consultation Report for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. This report is pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes. 41-2051 Section C.

The Department continues to make great efforts to build upon and further enhance and strengthen its relationships with the tribes in Arizona. This report reflects these ongoing efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry L. Muehlenbeck".

KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK  
Major General, AZ ANG  
The Adjutant General

cc: Ms. Kristine Fire Thunder, Policy Advisor, Tribal Affairs



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Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
Tribal Consultation Annual Report  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

**Agency Overview**

The Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) consists of the Army and the Air National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management (EM), the Division of Administrative Services, and the Joint Task Force-Arizona. DEMA provides unique capabilities and services to the citizens of Arizona in three distinct roles: community support, State support and Federal coordination and support.

**Tribal Consultation Policy**

DEMA recognizes and honors the Government-to-Government relationship that exists between the State of Arizona and the Tribes. To that end, the Department created its first “Tribal Consultation Policy” in 2006, as part of Executive Order 2006-14, “Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes” and maintains it today in compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §41-2051 Section C. On 15 November 2018 The Adjutant General, Major General Michael T. McGuire, signed an updated “Tribal Consultation Policy” Policy Letter No. 10.20 which superseded Policy Letter No. 10.20 dated 13 MAR 2017. That updated Policy Letter was disseminated internally, sent externally to the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, and was shared with all of the Tribal Emergency Managers.

**Tribal Liaison**

As an extension of Executive Order 2006-14, DEMA met the obligation of having a dedicated Tribal Point-of-Contact (POC) when it created the Tribal Liaison position. This position, in compliance with A.R.S. §41-2051 Section C., reports to the Adjutant General and the Director of the Division of Administrative Services, works closely with the Director of the Division of Emergency Management, and provides direct access between the tribes and DEMA. The Tribal Liaison also advises DEMA staff on tribal related issues to include cultural awareness and sensitivity.

**FY21 Tribal Consultation Activities**

DEMA has continued to work collaboratively and in partnership with Tribes in Arizona in compliance with A.R.S. §41-2051 Section C. To that end DEMA has conducted and/or participated in various activities throughout the past year in support of Tribal efforts to increase their emergency management capabilities and in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Information sharing with Tribal partners occurs on a regular basis via various mechanisms including emails, conference calls, face-to-face meetings with Tribal Emergency Managers on Tribal lands, and hosting quarterly meetings with Tribal and County Emergency Managers. DEMA has also continued to provide tribes with a number of public information resources including disaster campaign materials that cover various hazards so Tribes can utilize and revise them and develop material that is Tribe-specific to meet Tribal needs; this includes continued support for the statewide “Ready, Set, Go!” program which supports evacuations as the result of an emergency.

The DEMA Tribal Liaison continues to support engagement between the Tribes and other State agencies, Federal partners, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) and other organizations before, during, and after incidents on their lands. This has resulted in the DEMA Tribal Liaison being asked to speak about tribal engagement at various events including the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Arizona Tribal Executive Committee (AzTEC) meetings, the Coconino County VOAD group, and the National VOAD Conference where the DEMA Tribal Liaison served as a panel member for “The Impact of COVID-19 in Tribal Communities” workshop session.

The DEMA Tribal Liaison has also supported various agencies at the state and federal level with their efforts to work with and collaborate with the Tribes. This resulted in the DEMA Tribal Liaison providing a “State Emergency Preparedness and Response Support for Tribal Nations” presentation at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Preparedness Response Workshop for Tribal Nations and supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in conducting State and Federal meetings with Tribal partners to discuss COVID-19 support opportunities and Disaster Declaration processes to all Tribal partners in Arizona. An overview of related activities and others is offered in the following table:



Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
<p>DEMA will coordinate emergency management, state activities and Army/Air National Guard activities and/or assistance to Tribal governments</p>	<p>Provide ongoing department information to help strengthen Tribal emergency management capabilities</p>	<p>Ongoing - Tribal Emergency Managers have received weekly email communications on all COVID-19-related resources that have been made available to the Tribes including the support that the Joint Task Force-Arizona units can provide</p>
		<p>Ongoing - Tribal Emergency Managers are regularly provided with information on DEMA activities including available training, upcoming exercises, plan development support, and eligible grant opportunities</p>
<p>DEMA staff will engage in the consultation process with Tribes by various means, depending on the situation.</p>	<p>Meet with tribes to speak with officials and discuss available COVID-19 support from the various Task Force units that were established as part of the COVID-19 response.</p>	<p>Ongoing - Meet with Tribal Emergency Managers, Tribal Health Departments, and Tribal Councils on their lands to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the issues, concerns, and resource needs that Tribal partners possess to discuss potential solutions that DEMA or other State agencies can deliver</p>
	<p>Meet with tribes to speak with officials and discuss hazards, issues, and concerns.</p>	<p>Various Dates - Meet with Tribal Emergency Managers on their lands to discuss various hazards including flash flooding, wildland fires, and post fire flooding; offered all Tribes the Ready, Set, Go! materials for their use including Door hangers, Fact Sheets (English and Spanish), and the Ready, Set, Go! Social Media Toolkit</p>
	<p>Conduct meetings with Tribal and County Emergency Managers throughout the State to address existing and emerging issues.</p>	<p>Various Dates – Weekly, bi-weekly, and quarterly conference calls and meetings are held with County and Tribal Emergency Management representatives to discuss existing or emerging issues and identify resource and support needs. Attendees include the Arizona Division of Emergency Management (ADEM) Director, all ADEM Assistant Directors, the DEMA Tribal Liaison, and relevant State agencies</p>
<p>DEMA will assist Tribal governments in developing emergency management programs by providing training to the extent resources allow</p>	<p>Provide support to Tribal partners through training.</p>	<p>Various Dates - WebEOC training on the COVID-19 resource request process was given to all Tribes to assist them in securing needed resources, due to COVID-19 restrictions, DEMA provided information on all virtual emergency management training being offered until in-person training can continue</p>
	<p>Provide technical assistance to Tribal partners during and after incident response as requested.</p>	<p>Various Dates –DEMA Tribal Liaison offered technical assistance to Tribal partners via consultation meetings including discussions on the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact (AZMAC) and the Federal Disaster Declaration process</p>



Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
DEMA will assist Tribal governments in their response to and recovery from emergencies	Provide personnel support to Tribal Nations during and after incident response as requested.	Various Dates – DEMA Tribal Liaison served as the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Agency Liaison to all Tribes during the COVID-19 response and coordinated response activities; DEMA personnel supported Testing Blitz operations on Tribal lands including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o White Mountain Apache Tribe</li> <li>o Fort McDowell Yavapai Tribe</li> <li>o Tohono O’odham Nation</li> <li>o Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community</li> </ul> DEMA personnel supported Vaccination Point-of-Dispensing (POD) sites on Tribal lands including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gila River Indian Community</li> <li>o Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community</li> <li>o Yavapai Apache Nation</li> <li>o Tohono O’odham Nation</li> </ul>
	Foster capacity building so Tribes can better respond to and recover from disasters.	Ongoing – DEMA provides FEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) as pass-through funding to Tribes who apply to sustain/strengthen their programs

**Other Issues of Interest**

As the lead agency for Emergency Management in Arizona, DEMA has continued to operate and provide support to its Tribal partners throughout the COVID-19 response. A challenge DEMA has faced throughout the pandemic are the response differences that Tribes have initiated to protect their people as part of their mitigation measures. This includes mask mandates and curfews and limiting who can come onto their lands. These challenges have been assessed and overcome through various meetings with Tribal Emergency Managers and the DEMA Tribal Liaison to identify how DEMA personnel could best follow the Tribes mitigation measures to continue to support their programs. This allowed DEMA to provide support including:

- Consultation meetings for Tribal Emergency Managers, Tribal Public Health Officials, and Tribal Leaders
- Ongoing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) resource delivery
- Coordination of food, water, and other resource deliveries
- Support of warehouse operations
- Support of “COVID-19 Testing Blitz” and COVID-19 Vaccination POD sites

As the COVID-19 response moves forward, DEMA continues to hold conference calls with Tribal Emergency Managers, ADHS, and other partners to ensure that all partners are operating from the same Common Operating Picture. This allows DEMA to provide immediate support to Tribes as requests for assistance are identified and received. DEMA is also planning on how it will return to “normal” operations once it is safe to do so.

**Point of Contact**

For questions or more information, please contact:

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