

PARTNERING SUCCESS/OPPORTUNITY STORY
Hopi Partnership 2010

Situation (provide a brief description/background of the situation):

A severe winter storm entered Navajo County on January 18, 2010 bringing record amounts of heavy wet snow. Snow accumulations ranged anywhere between six to eight inches up to several feet depending on the elevation in northern Navajo County, north of 1-40, and in/around State Route 260 and State Route 87 in the southern area of Navajo County.

On January 21, 2010 Navajo County declared a state of emergency, due to the sheer volume of snow received late January 20, 2010 and in the early hours on January 21, 2010.

Navajo County was hit with two additional storms from January 22, 2010 to January 26, 2010. Each additional storm was widespread over the county producing record snowfall and spaced nearly on top of each other with only hours of reprieve.

Challenges (describe the difficulties/issues/obstacles):

Several factors played in to the difficulties experienced. The sheer magnitude of the storm covered all of Navajo County and did not let up until several days had passed. Due to the vastness of the storm manpower was stretched thin and heavy equipment was in limited supply.

Many main arterial routes were closed for hours and/or days due to the snow accumulations, ice, and mud/rock slides. In addition, the accumulation of snow and the variances of weather temperatures melted the snow causing extremely muddy conditions limiting advances to residential and community locations. Strategic missions to provide food, water, and medical supplies to high risk citizens were hindered until the mud, water, and snow could freeze.

The rate of the snow fall and the weight of it made it difficult for normal removal procedures to keep up therefore larger equipment and more man power was required.

An After Action Review (AAR) was completed upon exit of the State Incident Management Team. This AAR provides additional challenges faced during the emergency event.

Partnering Practices (*what were the behaviors, attitudes and steps taken to promote collaborative teamwork?*):

Due to the enormous region that was blanketed by the snow several agencies including Hopi Tribe, Navajo County, Navajo Nation, Arizona Division of Emergency and the Incident Command Team, the National Guard as well as Coconino and Apache County and their partnering agencies. All the teams worked together to not only remove the snow but deliver food, fuel supplies and make sure “high-risk” patients received medical care including dialysis patients.

An After Action Review (AAR) was completed upon exit of the State Incident Management Team. This AAR provides additional information on the dynamics of the partnerships with the tribal, federal, state and county jurisdictions faced during the emergency event.

Outcomes (*results: what happened as a result of the partnering efforts, which may or may not have been successful?*):

Through the efforts of all those that participated in the above listed activities there were many lives saved. Although there was a few days delay until the IMT was up and running and in obtaining supplies and getting them delivered overall the operations were very effective.

Based on the After Action Review (AAR), it was determined follow up meetings were needed to continue the good work established during the emergency. Also, a “green book” was determined to provide future Incident Management Teams (IMT) the correct cultural, demographic, social, etc. practices to ensure a more timely response.

Lessons Learned (*what insights or new information are you taking away from this situation, whether the outcome was the desired one or not?*):

An After Action Review (AAR) was completed upon exit of the State Incident Management Team. This AAR provides lessons learned as a result of the emergency event. (See attached.)

Furthermore, the State IMT provided a copy of their lessons learned which was provided in hardcopy to Roger Tungovia. An electronic format of the document was provided later.

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