

Emergency Planning Workshop – Summer RTOC

Note for July 24, 2013

- There were 14 tribal attendees at today's Tribal Emergency Planning Workgroup. There were 17 tribal attendees at the previous Tribal Emergency Planning Workgroup meeting on May 8, 2013.
- EPA Region 9's Mike Ardito summarized the Tribal Emergency Planning Workgroup meeting held on May 8:
- Michael DeSpain of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of the Chico Rancheria was selected as tribal co-lead for this workgroup on May 8.
- At the last meeting (as well as today) these printed emergency planning materials were made available:
 - Guidance for development of Tribal Chemical Emergency Response Notification Plan for smaller tribes or reservations.
 - EPA Fact Sheet: "Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention in Indian Country"
 - Wildfire Smoke Guide for Public Health Officials
 - Hazardous Materials Cleanup Local Government Reimbursement Assistance (application available online)
 - 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook from U.S. Department of Transportation (also available online)
 - Postcard: Annual Continuing Challenge workshop (in Sacramento) with emergency preparedness training opportunities available
 - U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security / FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) brochure
 - Printed copy of FEMA's power point slide presentation about the tribal disaster declaration process now available under Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. The presentation was given by Alan Ball to the tribal workgroup on May 8, 2013
- FEMA was not able to attend today's session, but the FEMA Region 9 Tribal contact was provided : Tessa Badua – Larsen. Her email address is: Teresita.Badua-Larsen@fema.dhs.gov; phone: 510-627-7185.

Feedback on Training Needs:

Attendee comment: most of what the tribal environmental programs have financially for training is what's available through the GAP grant. However, some have been directed not to use the GAP grant for emergency preparedness training. Some thought the training was helping to develop a 9-1-1 program.

Veronica Swann of EPA Region 9: Use GAP funding for responses to chemical releases.

Tribal Comment: We have a plan, but because of training (hazardous waste, UST, petroleum) we were told we could not include this in GAP anymore other than actual activities. We only respond to emergencies about 10 percent of the time.

Question from tribal representative: Incident Command System (ICS) trainings – are these allowable?

Veronica Swann: EPA can only pay for the Tribal Environmental Office staff if it is in preparation for an emergency situation.

Mike Ardito: Some ICS training is available online for free.

Mike Ardito: We encourage Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs) to help with tribal emergency preparedness. Most entities are doing all-hazards planning as a more efficient way of doing preparedness.

Mike Ardito: We cannot guarantee training at the annual tribal conference due to fiscal year budget cuts. However, you may want to talk w/ FEMA to get any available training done before Sept. 30 and the end of the federal fiscal year.

Tribal representative: National and regional drought situation reports are available from state offices of emergency management.

Action items: Investigate and report back what appropriate emergency preparedness trainings may be available online or by video. Also, when notified, Mike Ardito will forward announcements of emergency preparedness trainings available to residents of California, Nevada and Arizona.

Action item: Regarding contaminated soils, what trainings or methods are available to avoid costly expenses to fix this problem?

Within a week after the meeting, Mike DeSpain called Mike Ardito to find out how the session went. They discussed moving the workgroup focus to all-hazards planning. EPA, the tribes and staff should have minimal ICS training. A list of available on-line training will be developed and sent out to members of the Tribal Emergency Planning Workgroup.