



# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Intergovernmental Affairs Division  
Telephone 202-646-3444

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY

June 20, 2012

### FEMA INVITES TRIBAL LEADERS OF FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES TO DISCUSS SUPPORT FOR THE STAFFORD ACT CHANGE

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate invites the leader of each federally-recognized tribe to join him for a conference call to discuss proposed changes to the Stafford Act on June 26, 2012, at 2:00pm Eastern. He will provide an update on FEMA's activities in support of legislation that would amend the Stafford Act to allow federally-recognized tribal governments to directly request an emergency or major disaster declaration from the President, as well as solicit feedback from the tribal leaders.

**Date:** June 26, 2012  
**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00pm (Eastern)  
**Call In:** 773-756-4626 (Domestic)  
800-369-1986 (Extended and Insular Areas)  
**Passcode:** FEMA TRIBAL

Tribal leadership is an essential part of our nation's emergency management team and, consistent with our strong Nation-to-Nation relationship, FEMA and the Administration are committed to supporting Indian Country in their efforts to build more resilient and better prepared communities.

On June 11, 2012, Administrator Fugate sent a letter to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs offering his support for legislation that would amend the Stafford Act in recognition of tribal sovereignty, self determination and self governance. FEMA and the Administration support amending the Stafford Act to allow federally-recognized tribal governments to make a request directly to the President for a federal emergency or major disaster declaration. **Amending the law would acknowledge the sovereignty of federally recognized tribes, enhance FEMA's working relationship with tribal governments and improve emergency and disaster responsiveness throughout Indian Country.** Supporting this change reflects the Administration's belief that we must constantly find innovative ways to serve and engage entire communities in our shared goal of strengthening our nation's resiliency against all hazards.

We look forward to working proactively with Indian Country and Congress to facilitate passage of such a change in the law. This discussion is an important opportunity for FEMA and Indian Country to strengthen our partnership as we work together to support more resilient and better prepared communities.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact FEMA's Special Advisor for Tribal Affairs, Richard Flores, at [Richard.Flores@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Richard.Flores@fema.dhs.gov) or 202-646-4663.

*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

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