

Dear Chapter Officials, Administration, and Community Leadership,

Due to ongoing rainstorms and flooding conditions across the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) is providing this notice to support community safety, coordinate reporting efforts, and communicate current response procedures.

The purpose of this email is to: (1) provide important flood safety information for community members, (2) encourage Chapters to identify and report isolated families or emergency access concerns, (3) explain Navajo DOT's current response priorities and operational limitations during active flooding, and (4) request that all road damage be documented and reported through the work order process with GPS coordinates, route numbers, and photographs.

Human life and public safety remain our highest priorities. Chapters are encouraged to share this information with their communities, identify emergency contacts within their service areas, monitor vulnerable households, and continue submitting work orders to assist Navajo DOT in assessing, tracking, and prioritizing response efforts across the Navajo Nation.

LIFE SAFETY IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY DO NOT ENTER FLOODWATERS

Please remind all community members:

- **Never drive, walk, or attempt to cross actively flowing water, flooded roads, washes, arroyos, ditches, or low-lying areas.**
- Flash flooding can occur with little or no warning, even when rainfall is occurring miles away.
- Just a few inches of moving water can knock a person off their feet, and floodwaters can quickly sweep away vehicles.
- Stay away from washes and drainage channels during and after storms.
- Keep children, elders, and livestock away from flood-prone areas.
- **Turn Around, Don't Drown. No destination is worth risking a life.**

UNDERSTAND WEATHER ALERTS

- **Flash Flood Watch:** Conditions are favorable for flooding. Be prepared to act.
- **Flash Flood Warning:** Flash flooding is occurring or imminent. Move to higher ground immediately and take protective action.

PREPARE BEFORE TRAVELING

We strongly encourage all community members to:

- Check weather conditions before departing.
- Monitor forecasts through the **National Weather Service (NWS)** at www.weather.gov and other reliable weather sources.
- Identify emergency contacts and evacuation routes within their local area.
- Carry emergency supplies including water, food, medications, flashlights, batteries, and communication devices.
- Notify family members of travel plans when traveling through remote areas.
- Be prepared to delay travel when weather conditions become hazardous.

CHECK ON VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Chapters are encouraged to identify and monitor:

- Isolated families with limited or no road access.
- Elders living alone.
- Individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges.
- Families requiring access to medical care or essential services.

At this time, reports involving **isolated families with no access due to flooding** represent our highest priority concern.

BEFORE THE FLOOD: PREPARE NOW

Gather Emergency Supplies

Maintain at least three days of:

- Drinking water (one gallon per person per day)
- Non-perishable food
- Prescription medications
- First aid supplies
- Flashlights and batteries
- Blankets and personal necessities
- Livestock feed and pet food

Secure Your Property

- Clear culverts, drainage channels, and ditches where safe to do so.
- Secure outdoor items that can be displaced by flooding or high winds.
- Move vehicles, equipment, and livestock to higher ground.

Prepare Your Household

- Review emergency plans and evacuation routes.
- Charge phones and backup batteries.
- Store important documents in waterproof containers.

Stay Connected

- Check on neighbors, elders, and vulnerable households.
- Save local emergency and first responder contact information.
- Share weather updates and emergency information with family members.

DURING THE FLOOD: STAY SAFE

Be Ready to Act Quickly

- Move to higher ground immediately if flooding threatens your area.
- Identify safe routes to higher ground and share them with family members.
- Keep an emergency go-bag readily available.
- Do not attempt to retrieve belongings from floodwaters.
- Keep children and pets away from flooded areas.

Avoid Dangerous Areas

- Never drive or walk through flooded roads or washes.
- Stay away from slot canyons, arroyos, drainage channels, ditches, and other low-lying areas.
- Exercise extreme caution near burn scar areas and locations prone to rapid flooding.

Protect Vulnerable Areas

- Communities near burn scars should be especially alert, as flash flooding can occur even during light rainfall.
- Urban and developed areas with poor drainage can flood rapidly.

AFTER THE FLOOD: STAY ALERT

- Avoid contact with floodwaters as they may be contaminated or electrically charged.
- Report damage to your Chapter and appropriate authorities.
- Check on neighbors, especially elders and individuals with limited mobility.

- Continue monitoring weather conditions as additional storms may occur before recovery efforts begin.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

If there is an immediate threat to life, stranded individuals requiring rescue, medical emergencies, vehicle occupants trapped by floodwaters, or isolated families needing emergency assistance, please contact:

- 911
- Local Law Enforcement

Navajo DOT road crews are not emergency rescue personnel and cannot perform emergency rescue operations.

NAVAJO DOT RESPONSE STATUS

Due to safety concerns for Navajo DOT staff and equipment, we **cannot perform road repairs while water is actively flowing, pooled, or when road conditions remain excessively saturated and muddy.**

Attempting repairs under current conditions could:

- Place personnel at risk.
- Damage equipment.
- Cause vehicles to become stuck.
- Further deteriorate already damaged roadways.

For these reasons, Navajo DOT will not be able to respond to certain locations until routes have sufficiently dried and conditions allow for safe operations.

At this time:

- There is **no declared State of Emergency.**
- All reports will be assessed and prioritized based on severity.
- Human life and public safety remain our highest priority.
- Response efforts will be prioritized based on:
 - Threats to public safety.
 - Isolated families without access.
 - Accessibility of affected areas.
 - Regional transportation routes.
 - Crew and equipment availability.
 - Recommendations from Navajo DOT Roads and Road Maintenance Districts.

Where possible, Navajo DOT crews will work first to make roadways **passable**. Permanent repairs and restoration efforts will be completed when weather and ground conditions improve and in coordination with the appropriate agencies and departments.

ROAD DAMAGE REPORTING

We encourage all Chapters to continue submitting work orders and damage reports. When submitting a work order, please provide:

- GPS coordinates (**most valuable information**)
- Route number
- Chapter name and location
- Description of damage
- Current road conditions
- Clear photographs documenting the issue
- Whether the road is passable, partially passable, or impassable

Do not place yourself in danger to obtain photographs, measurements, or documentation. Please submit reports through your Agency Planner and provide a copy to Christina Hardy at chardy@navajodot.org

The information will be relayed to the appropriate Road Maintenance District and coordinated, as necessary, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Transportation, State Department of Transportations, and Counties for routes under their ownership and maintenance responsibility.

While route numbers may not always be visible in photographs, images remain a valuable tool for documenting conditions and assisting staff with prioritization and response planning.

ROAD OWNERSHIP REMINDER

Please note that not all roads within the Navajo Nation are maintained by Navajo DOT. Some routes may fall under the jurisdiction of:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- County governments
- State transportation agencies
- Federal agencies

Navajo DOT will coordinate with the appropriate transportation entity when necessary.

RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS

We respectfully ask for patience as our Roads Department addresses numerous reports from across the Navajo Nation.

Due to the widespread nature of current storm impacts, response times may be longer than normal. Crews will address locations based on:

- Public safety considerations
- Accessibility
- Severity of damage
- Available resources
- Regional transportation needs

Chapters can assist by:

- Continuing to submit work orders.
- Providing accurate GPS coordinates and route information.
- Reporting isolated households and emergency access concerns.
- Sharing weather and safety information with community members.

This information helps Navajo DOT identify problem areas, monitor changing conditions, and allocate resources where they are needed most.

FINAL MESSAGE

Human life and public safety remain our highest priorities during this period of widespread flooding.

Please encourage all community members to remain weather-aware, monitor National Weather Service forecasts, identify emergency contacts within their area, avoid flooded roads and washes, and delay travel when conditions are unsafe.

Additional Resources

Community members and Chapter officials may view Navajo Nation Chapter maps and identify routes, locations, and jurisdictional areas by visiting the **Navajo DOT Chapter Maps** webpage:

Chapter Maps: <https://navajodot.org/chapter-maps>

These maps may assist with identifying affected locations, route numbers, and documenting road conditions when submitting work orders and damage reports.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, partnership, and commitment to protecting our communities during this challenging time.

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[Print Maps Here](#)

[Request Map](#)

[Request GIS Data](#)

[Annual Average Daily Traffic \(AADT\) Request](#)

Good evening,

PLEASE read and see attachment below. Above all else, STAY SAFE & CAREFUL.

Juanelle Begaye

Legislative District Assistant for

Delegate Carl R. Slater

25th Navajo Nation Council

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