

## NPTEC DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

**\*\*UPDATE\*\*** 4/19/2019 3:40 p.m.

The Nez Perce Tribe remains in a State of Emergency for the Nez Perce Reservation, however the current danger is low. There is still potential for rock slides, mud slides, and landslides. The National Weather Service is predicting heavy rainfall and possible thunder storms tonight through Saturday, with the sun reappearing on Sunday. There is still snow in some areas, so continued melting and runoff is anticipated.

The Emergency Operations Team (Team) is continuing with preliminary assessments of damaged public facilities and structures. Next week, additional assessments will be made to determine needs and cost of repairs. The process will take some time as there are over 30 sites that require assessment. However, the Team will be making rounds to each Tribal community, ensuring all sites are recorded.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\*** 4/17/19 4:30 p.m.

The Nez Perce Tribe is continuing efforts to manage the flood issues. Currently, the Tribe is in the preliminary assessment phase for all areas that have been impacted by recent weather conditions. The State of Emergency has not been released at this point.

The Tribe's Emergency Operations Team is going out to assess over 30 public facilities and structures that are of concern. The team will be looking at all sites to determine the level of damage and cost of repair. Assessment will begin with the Stites and Kamiah areas, which were the most heavily impacted.

On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee Chairman, Shannon Wheeler, met with Governor Brad Little. Today, Chairman Wheeler met with Congressman Fulcher, Idaho Representative Kingsley, and Idaho Representative Stevenson. Discussions occurred on the assessments, and the work that is being conducted to care for the communities.

Additional flooding is anticipated to be relatively low. However, there are still concerns of rock slides, mud slides, and landslides. The weather service is predicting heavy rain through the weekend and there is still a significant amount of snow on the ground in some areas.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\*** 4/12/19 10:30 a.m.

Conditions continued to improve across the Nez Perce Reservation overnight with water levels in area creeks and rivers receding. The Nez Perce Tribe will continue to monitor water levels throughout the day and into the weekend as more rain is expected over the next 48 hours. Sand and sandbags are

ready for use in case of emergency. The materials are located at the Nez Perce Tribe Bus Barn in Sweetwater and the tribal community centers in Orofino and Kamiah. Please contact Nez Perce Tribal Police Dispatch if assistance is needed at 509-332-2521 or 208-843-5214 or 208-935-7777 (Kamiah area).

Highway 12 still remains closed 6 miles east of Orofino. The Nez Perce Tribe advises all motorists to be mindful of the high potential for mudslides and washed out roads throughout the region. Information on current road conditions is available at [511.Idaho.gov](http://511.Idaho.gov).

In addition, the North Central District of Idaho Public Health has information on contaminated water/flood water hazards on its Facebook page.

You can also follow #NPFloods2019 for additional information. The Tribe encourages users to include the hashtag on photos or information they post of the conditions in their area.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/11/19 3:25 p.m.\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribe is still in a state of emergency. The National Weather Service has issued a flood warning starting at 8:00 p.m. tonight through 10:00 a.m. Friday morning. The warning is for Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Whitman counties.

Continuous monitoring has occurred throughout the reservation. Resources have been made available and we will continue to provide updates on the most current situations, as they are communicated to us. Today, the Kamiah and Stites areas were primarily affected.

In the Glenwood region, a run-off filled reservoir was becoming of concern, with a water level that was fairly close to the road. The water was estimated to be 50 feet deep and 500 meters across, which came out to 4.6 million gallons. Idaho County decided to excavate through Glenwood Road, in order to help drain the reservoir away from the main road. Unfortunately, the water pressure caused erosion and eventually the entire road washed out. As Nez Perce Tribal Police Officers recognized the increasing erosion, advisories were sent out to residents to vacate the area.

All residents were able to leave before major amounts of water flowed out. No injuries occurred at this time. Resources are still available at the Wa-A'Yas Community Center in Kamiah and at the Life Center Pentecostal Church in Kamiah (4432 Highway 12).

Staff will continue monitoring the area and make preparations for additional flooding. Advisories are still in place and residents are encouraged to stay alert. If you are willing to be on standby for volunteering during the evening, please call Alexis Walker (208)816-1744. If you need any assistance call Nez Perce Tribal Police dispatch Lapwai- (208)843-5214 Kamiah- (208)935-7777. If it is an emergency, call 911.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/11/19 12:15 p.m.\*\***

Residents of the Glenwood region below Adams Grade Road are advised to leave the area as soon as possible, and stay away until further notice. Pack only necessary belongings, move your pets or take them to higher ground, and ensure propane tanks are turned off and secured.

The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho has also setup a shelter at the Life Center Pentecostal Church (4432 Highway 12 Kamiah, Idaho). If you need immediate assistance call 911.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/11/19 11:00 a.m.\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribe is still under a state of emergency. Over the evening, rain continued and snow fell in some areas. We are seeing an influx of weather conditions and people are advised to take caution while on the roads.

We are currently monitoring a major area of concern in the Glenwood region. Residents of the Tom Ta Ha Creek Canyon (below Adams Grade Rd.) are advised to stay alert and be prepared to evacuate. Pack only necessary belongings, move your pets or take them to higher ground, and ensure propane tanks are turned off and secured. Officers are working to fix the situation, but in the event the problem cannot be mitigated residents are advised to leave.

We are also responding to flooding issues at Maggie Creek above Kooskia on Highway 12.

If you have family or friends in that area, please offer your assistance. The Wa-A'Yas community center is available to anyone. The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho has also setup a shelter at the Life Center Pentecostal Church (4432 Highway 12 Kamiah, Idaho). If you need any assistance call Nez Perce Tribal Police dispatch Lapwai- (208)843-5214 Kamiah- (208)935-7777. If it is an emergency, call 911.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/10/19 4:20 p.m.\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribe is continuing their efforts of mitigation practices in preparation for possible continual flooding. A number of donations have been made and multiple individuals have offered their time and assistance. The Nez Perce Tribe is humbled by all the support and assistance; we are truly grateful for everyone coming together and stepping up to take care of the community.

The Yakama Nation donated 720 filled sandbags, 2,500 empty bags, and delivered all the items to the Nez Perce Reservation this morning. From the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Joe Chapman, donated and delivered empty bags. CrossPoint Alliance Church donated a truck load of sand. Idaho National Guard Northcentral Field Officer, Robert Feely, donated 5,000 empty bags. Many people donated their time to fill sand bags, deliver sand bags, used their personal equipment to help move sand, and remove debris from water ways. We have received donations of food, water, and additional supplies. Many folks have also offered services, and are on standby if needed.

Staff will continue to monitor the reservation throughout the evening. Folks will also be on standby to place sandbags if needed. Assistance is available, if there are any concerns please call Nez Perce Tribal Police dispatch Lapwai- (208)843-5214 Kamiah- (208)935-7777. If it is an emergency, call 911.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/10/19 8:30 a.m.\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribe is remaining in a state of emergency. At this time everything that can be mitigated has been, and monitoring will continue to occur. Most water levels continue to decline, and are anticipated to continue in that direction throughout the day. However, the rain is expected to pick up starting on Thursday.

Through the night Rebecca Miles, Nez Perce Tribe Executive Director, and multiple officers from the Nez Perce Tribal Police Department continued to observe all areas of concern on the reservation. Lapwai Creek continued to rise and flooding did occur over Goldner Road. Folks were called in to lay sandbags and the situation was stabilized.

A mud slide occurred in Kamiah near mile post 70 on highway 12, over the course of the evening. Immediate action was taken, and the area was cleared by early morning. Afterwards, welfare checks continued and will continue through the day.

There were some areas of concern that had such high water levels, where sandbags would not have helped. Placing sandbags may have actually put workers or volunteers in danger. The Nez Perce Tribe follows the LIP Strategy (Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property/Environment Conservation) in these types of situations.

*Life Safety encompasses responders and the public. It includes rescuing endangered civilians; treating the injured; and providing for the safety, accountability, and welfare of response personnel. Life safety is an ongoing priority throughout the incident.*

*Incident Stabilization seeks to keep the incident from escalating, minimize its effects, and bring it under control.*

*Property/Environmental Conservation means maintaining the property, the infrastructure, the evidence, the economy, the environment and providing for recovery.*

*Some of the problems will not be addressed during the initial period of the incident, and it may take several operational periods to address all of the problems listed.*

Though water levels have decreased and rain is not expected today, folks are still advised to take caution and stay alert. Mud slides, landslides, and rock slides are still likely to occur. If you do have any need for assistance, please call Nez Perce Tribal Police Department dispatch Lapwai- (208)843-5214 Kamiah- (208)935-7777. If it is an emergency, call 911.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/9/19\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribe is still in a state of emergency, due to flooding. It is anticipated to continue raining throughout the evening. However, gauges are showing that the water levels have started dropping and will continue to drop. Folks are still working to fill and place sand bags as necessary.

Residents in flood zones are encouraged to stay on alert for evacuation. Pack a bag with necessary items only (change of clothes, toiletries, medications, etc.) Community centers in Lapwai and Kamiah are open to the public and supplies are available for anyone that needs them. Resources will also continue to be provided as needed.

Be sure to turn off and secure any propane tanks and pesticides. We will continue providing updates as they come in.

Volunteers are still needed. Stop by the Pi-Nee-Waus in Lapwai or the Wa-A'Yas in Kamiah to see how you can help.

**\*\*UPDATE 4/9/19\*\***

The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee has declared a state of emergency due to heavy flooding on and near the Nez Perce Reservation. As creeks and rivers continue to rise, it is anticipated flooding will continue and worsen; which can lead to landslides, rock slides, and mudslides. It is supposed to continue raining throughout the day.

If you are in a flood zone or located at a low elevation near water, please be prepared to evacuate. Pack only belongings that are necessary (change of clothes, medication, toiletries, etc.). The Pi-Nee-Waus Community Center in Lapwai and the Wa-A'Yas Community Center in Kamiah are shelters with supplies. Please utilize those establishments if needed. Also, do not forget to turn off your propane tanks.

Families, please check on your loved ones. Your assistance in helping with children and the elderly is greatly appreciated.

If you can donate food or supplies, please drop them off at one of the community centers.

Sandbags are available at the Pi-Nee-Waus Community Center in Lapwai and the Wa-A'Yas Community Center in Kamiah.

For more information contact Rebecca for the Pi-Nee-Waus (208)791-7732 or [rebeccam@nezperce.org](mailto:rebeccam@nezperce.org) and Etta for the Wa-A'Yas (208)935-5261.

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Staff and volunteers will be loading and laying sandbags in areas of major concern first, and moving to other areas from there. Volunteers are needed if you are available please contact Rebecca Miles at (208)791-7732 or [rebeccam@nezperce.org](mailto:rebeccam@nezperce.org). NPTEC has allowed for staff to volunteer during work hours, while on the clock, with supervisor approval.

A first location for loading sandbags is at the Appaloosa Bus Barn (44335 US Highway 95 Lapwai, ID 83540). They are in need of volunteers now, folks available can head straight there.

If you need assistance, please call Whitcom dispatch Lapwai- (208)843-5214 Kamiah- (208)935-7777. If it is an emergency, call 911.

Shelters are available at the Pi-Nee-Waus Community center in Lapwai and Wa-A'Yas Community Center in Kamiah, supplies will be available at those locations.