




The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGREN *PRESIDENT*

Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Directors
Directors of Executive Office

FROM: 
Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: June 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Directive: Oak Ridge Fire and Related Events Mobilization

As you are already aware, a fire broke out on Oak Ridge about 10 miles east of St. Michael's Chapter. As of 12:00 am today, the fire is uncontained and a minimum of 800 acres has burned. Families in the path of the fire are being evacuated, and several shelters are established in St. Michaels and Fort Defiance. I am issuing this directive to the entire Executive Branch through you to ensure that the needs of the Navajo People are met during this emergency.

First, thank you to all Executive Branch employees who have already responded to this crisis. Many have already been called upon to assist with emergency operations to address the fire, set up shelters, evacuate livestock, and help evacuees. Many of you have generously made personal donations to assist both the emergency workers and our families.

Second, Deputy Chief of Staff Candace Begody-Slim has been the point of contact out of my office and will continue to be until she determines if she needs to pass the point of contact onto anyone else. She has done a fine job of responding to this emergency.

Finally, please continue to assist as you can and when you are called upon. That being said, we need to be responsible and quick to respond effectively to the emergency. I have spoken with Controller Sean McCabe and he confirmed that emergency procurement applies to this situation. No quotes are necessary for emergency procurement, however, please also collaborate with the Department of Justice to ensure you have obtained all appropriate authorizations for emergency procurement.

The Controller informed me that he has instructed his team to temporarily raise limits on operational P-Card during this emergency to ensure that purchases on food, water, and shelter supplies can be made quickly. The Controller will be issuing a formal memo once he's at a computer to ensure his team doesn't delay or block anything during this emergency.

Again, please act quickly and responsibly. There may be additional needs to respond to that are ancillary or related to the fire. Let's use every tool available to make sure our people are supported in their time of need.

cc: Kris Beecher, Chief of Staff
Candace Begody Slim, Deputy Chief of Staff

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