Emergency Management

Emergency management is the process of preparing for, mitigating, responding to and recovering from an emergency.

Mitigation

One of the first activities in mitigation is the identification of risks and hazards. Risk assessment refers to the process of identifying and evaluating hazards. From the risk assessment we identify potential mitigation projects.

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation attempts to prevent hazards from developing into disasters, or to reduce the effects of disasters when they occur. Mitigation focuses on long-term measures for reducing or eliminating risk. It also seeks to preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. Mitigation includes regulations regarding evacuation, quarantine, and communication of potential risks to the public.

Common mitigation measures include:

- ✓ safe rooms
- ✓ culverts
- ✓ check valves in sewer traps
- ✓ Tribal codes
- ✓ land-use planning and zoning
- ✓ elevation of buildings or structural retrofits
- ✓ sediment and erosion control
- ✓ watershed management
- ✓ wetland restoration and preservation
- ✓ forest and vegetation management

Preparedness

Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluation and improvement activities to ensure effective coordination and the enhancement of capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

Common preparedness measures include:

- ✓ emergency response plans
- ✓ communication plans
- ✓ training of emergency services and maintaining their equipment
- ✓ establishing and training community emergency response teams (CERT)
- ✓ developing emergency population warning methods
- ✓ identifying emergency shelters and creating evacuation plans
- ✓ stockpiling and maintaining disaster supplies and equipment
- ✓ family emergency response/survival kits

Response

Response involves first responders to a disaster area. Most likely you will see firefighters, police and ambulance crews. This is the part of Emergency Management that most people think of when you talk about disasters and emergencies.

Response to a disaster - natural or manmade (terrorism) - is based on existing emergency management organizational systems such as the Federal Response Plan (FRP) and the Incident Command System (ICS). These systems use Unified Command (UC) and Mutual Aid (MA). You may have heard these terms during National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.

Recovery

The intent of recovery is to restore the disaster area to its previous condition. It has a different focus from response – recovery efforts are concerned with issues and decisions that are made *after* immediate emergency needs are taken care of. Recovery efforts involve rebuilding destroyed property, repairing infrastructure and keeping people employed. We usually think of FEMA and insurance companies when we talk about recovery.

Bad River Emergency Management

We intend to focus our efforts on all four phases of Emergency Management. Due to time and budget constraints, some phases will receive more immediate attention than others.

Preparedness efforts are the in first phase to receive focused attention from the Tribe. The development of a Tribal Emergency Response Plan that will become FEMA approved is a main goal. We are currently seeking additional grants to fund the development of this document.

Mitigation is another focus in the upcoming year as we seek to receive a FEMA planning grant to do risk assessments and develop our Tribal Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The process of developing the mitigation plan will involve identifying potential mitigation projects. With a FEMA approved mitigation plan, we have a better opportunity to apply for and receive mitigation project grants. The common mitigation measures that were identified above are potential future grant funded projects.

Response is an ongoing phase – our Tribal first responders such as firefighters and police officers are continually training and preparing to respond to emergency incidents. We intend to assist their efforts through planning, coordinating exercises, and seeking grants to supplement existing responders and to create additional emergency response capabilities. One way we hope to enhance our Tribe's response capabilities is to develop an ambulance service.

Many of these plans take a full time effort of 18 months to develop. We are confident that the Tribe has excellent chances to apply for and receive several different Federal and State grants that will fund our efforts. All grants will go through normal Tribal approval processes – Tribal Council members will be properly informed when each grant application comes before them for their comments, wisdom, and approval. No mitigation projects will be started without having first been identified as a potential project to Tribal Council, environmental impact identified, THPO approval, and community involvement.

This paper is meant as an educational guide. The Tribe is in no way committing to start or complete any activity identified here, it is an outline of where the Emergency Services Coordinator is beginning work.