

Memo

To: Christine Sage, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council

From: Don Brockus, Risk and Emergency Manager

Date: February 10, 2020

Re: Coronavirus Incident Management Team Authorizing Resolution

On February 6, 2020 Vice Chairman Cloud, on behalf of the Chairman, signed a Proclamation of Local Emergency authorizing the establishment of an Incident Management Team to begin plans and preparations for a response to a potential novel coronavirus epidemic. That Proclamation was rooted in an extreme sense of caution and to enable a team to adequately prepare for what is now an imminent threat. The Proclamation is, by design, an interim document to allow activities to begin and permit time to bring the matter to the attention of the full council and seek an operating resolution. This request represents and requests that latter action. The proposed resolution authorizes the Incident Management Team to continue operations until such time as all active response is complete and all necessary paperwork and documentation is complete. The resolution also establishes somewhat nominal spending authority for the team. The most likely use of that authority would be to acquire medical countermeasures and other supplies. In the event of a full-blown epidemic it would likely be necessary to seek additional authority to maintain programs for observation, isolation and supportive care of affected persons.

The Proclamation and this Resolution are requested on the assumption that if we wait until the epidemic reaches this area, we would not have time to prepare and mount an effective response. Following are key points in support of that request:

- If an epidemic were to occur, availability of trained outside help would be limited and our incident management trained personnel are likely "rusty." Therefore, we are suggesting that we formally appoint an incident management team and provide a refresher course to them on roles, responsibilities and forms work.
- The World Health Organization has declared this to be an international public health emergency and the US Dept. of Health and Human Services has declared a national public health emergency.
- As it stands, only Council has the authority to make decisions and to expend funds to respond to an emergency. Resolutions for delegations of authority and budgets are required for and Incident Management Team to act effectively

Under the Proclamation an Incident Management Team has been formed. Several members are from the Health Department, but Finance, the Growth Fund and Casino are also represented. All the persons recommended have formal training to support their level of activity, usually classes up through ICS 400.

In this arrangement, I would serve as Liaison to Council and coordinate requests from the Incident Commander that require additional authority and/or financial obligations.

We do not believe that implementing extreme responses is warranted at this time, only that preparations be made to avoid unwarranted chaos should the virus reach this area. Actions have begun to acquire personal protective equipment (Using funds from a small grant) and to provide a refresher training for the team.

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Under the authority vested in me in Resolution Number 2004-225 and the Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan, I, Christine Sage, the Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, hereby declare a state of local emergency on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation as follows:

1. Background and Need

- a. The Southern Ute Permanent Fund Risk and Emergency Manager has advised me of an imminent disaster resulting from an international outbreak of a novel coronavirus ("2019-nCoV"). That outbreak has been declared a global public health emergency by the World Health Organization and a national public health emergency by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. As a "novel" virus, people lack immunity to this disease and vaccines will not be available soon.
- b. The nature of such an emergency dictates that an effective response must begin before the disease organism locally arrives. The most effective responses focus on preventing or minimizing its transmission.
- c. If those efforts fail, rapid transition to care and isolation of patients is imperative, while sustained effort to contain the spread continues.

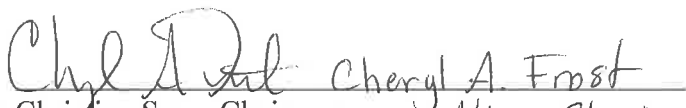
2. Scope

- a. The imminent threat of a coronavirus epidemic calls for declaration of a local emergency under Resolution 2004-225 and the Tribe's Emergency Operations Plan.
- b. The effect of this declaration is to activate efforts to prevent, contain, and respond to the spread of the coronavirus within the reservation and among tribal members and staff of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and all its entities.
- c. To that end, the Tribe should appoint an Incident Commander under the National Incident Management System to be authorized to organize and activate an incident management team as circumstances dictate.

3. Recommendation & Authorization

- a. I declare that the state of local emergency in this document will continue for up to 7 days, and that the Southern Ute Tribal Council consider the need to extend the emergency at its February 11, 2020 meeting or an earlier special meeting.
- b. I hereby appoint Margo Yeager, Chief Nursing Official, as the Tribe's Incident Commander under the National Incident Management System and she is authorized to organize and activate an incident management team as circumstances dictate. Requests for staff assistance with that response will be forwarded to the Executive Office for approval.

Dated this 06 day of February 2020.


for Christine Sage, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Cheryl A. Frost
Vice-Chairman