

California Area IHS Emergency Management

Overview of Roles and Resources available through the California
Area IHS

Carolyn Garcia, REHS, MSPH
Division of Environmental Health Services
California Area Indian Health Service
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National Response Framework (NRF)

NRF is the federal emergency management framework that guides how the federal government responds to all types of disasters and emergencies.

NRF establishes the National Emergency Support Functions to coordinate federal response resources and capabilities.

HHS is the ESF Coordinator for Emergency Support Function 8: Public Health and Medical Services.

Indian Health Service, as part of HHS, primary ESF role in emergencies fall within ESF-8: Responding to Public Health and Medical Disasters.

ESF-8: Public Health and Medical Services

Core Functional Areas:

- Assessment of public health/medical needs
- Health surveillance
- Medical care personnel
- Health/medical/veterinary equipment and supplies
- Patient evacuation
- Patient care
- Safety and security of drugs, biologics and medical devices
- Food safety and security
- Agriculture safety and security
- All hazard public health and medical consultation, technical assistance and support
- Behavioral health care
- Public health and medical information
- Vector Control
- Potable water, wastewater and solid waste management
- Veterinary medical support

Agency Resources for Emergencies



Secretary of HHS is the lead for an ESF 8 response which is directly coordinated by ASPR (*Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response*).

ASPR coordinates regional ESF 8 staff to provide initial ESF 8 support to the affected location.

IHS, during large and small scale local emergencies, may mobilize its own resources at the direction of Headquarters and Area Leadership.

- IHS resources include:
 - Personnel;
 - Financial resources.

IHS Financial Resources

- IHS Areas do not receive an annual appropriation for use in tribal/THP emergency preparedness or operational support.
 - Generally any funds expended at the Area level are from program appropriated funds.
- Agency Funds: IHS Director's Emergency Fund
 - Limited reserve to address emergencies and disaster relief at IHS /Tribal Health Programs.
 - Funds are not intended for administrative, maintenance, construction or any other purpose beyond emergencies and disaster relief/recovery (*ESF 8 core functional areas are a guide for requests*).
 - Proposal submitted by the Area Director to the IHS Director.
 - Proposals are evaluated by a review board.
 - Decisions are provided within 30 days of receipt of the request.

IHS Financial Resources

- Agency Funds: HQ SFC
 - Has a small pool of funds for emergency repairs to Tribal water/wastewater systems
- IHS Personnel:
 - USPHS Commissioned Officers can be deployed to respond to an emergency.
 - Requests processed by IHS HQ and CCHQ
 - Area Leadership can authorize for Area IHS staff to travel to provide technical assistance to a Tribe/THP. Examples include:
 - O&M/Utility Consultants and SFC engineers to assess water/wastewater systems impacted by storms, wildfire, etc.
 - HFE engineers to assess tribal clinics impacted by storms, flood etc.
 - DEHS environmental health specialists perform surveys of sheltering sites and mass feeding operations

Other Agency Resources: Project TRANSAM

<https://www.ihs.gov/transam>



- Project TRANSAM is a Cooperative Action Program between IHS and the Department of Defense (DOD).
 - Distributes medical equipment and supplies excessed by GSA and other Federal agencies through Direct Transfer.
 - Both THPs and Tribes may access these resources
 - Works with THPs and Tribes to establish “want lists” so TRANSAM is an excellent resource for emergency preparedness efforts
- During an emergency, inventory in TRANSAM warehouse is available for immediate deployment.
- Example of supplies: generators, storage totes, tents, cots, sleeping bags, portable water treatment, N95 respirators, nitrile gloves, sand bags, etc.

Other Agency Resources: National Supply Service Center (NSSC)

<https://www.ihs.gov/nssc/>

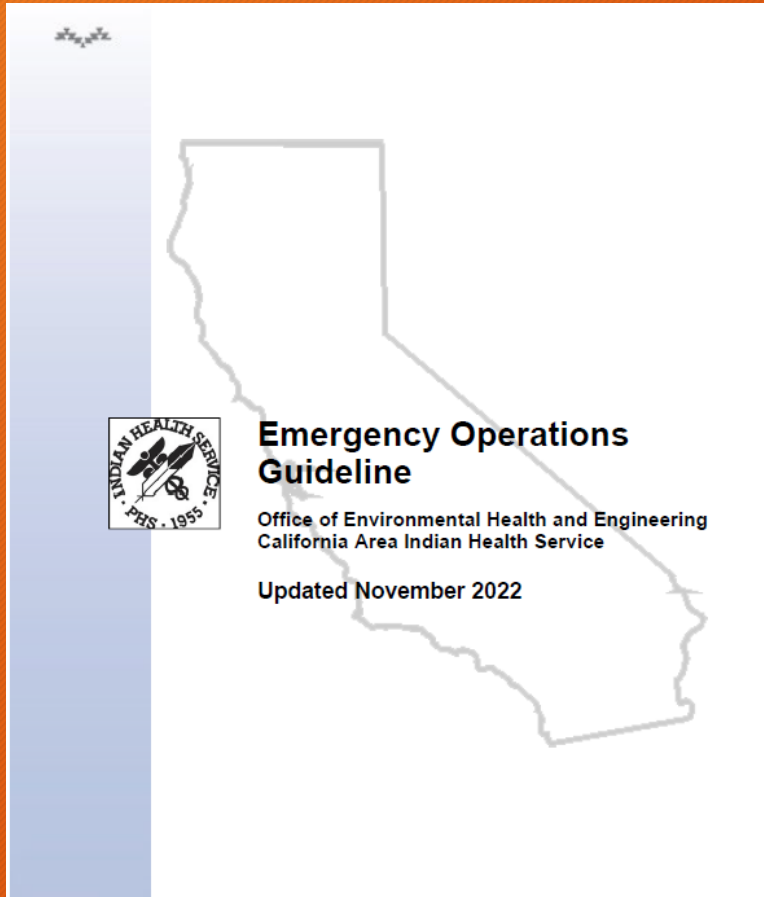


- Located on Oklahoma City, OK.
- Coordinates the purchase and distribution of pharmaceuticals, medical-surgical, lab, x-ray and dental related supply items.
- Provides supplies to both IHS and Tribal healthcare facilities.
 - *Source for N95 respirators and air purifiers at GSA pricing.*
- To access: if program has not already signed up with NSSC and created an account--THP should submit a completed new customer agreement form found at the NSSC website.

Core Area Resource: Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE)

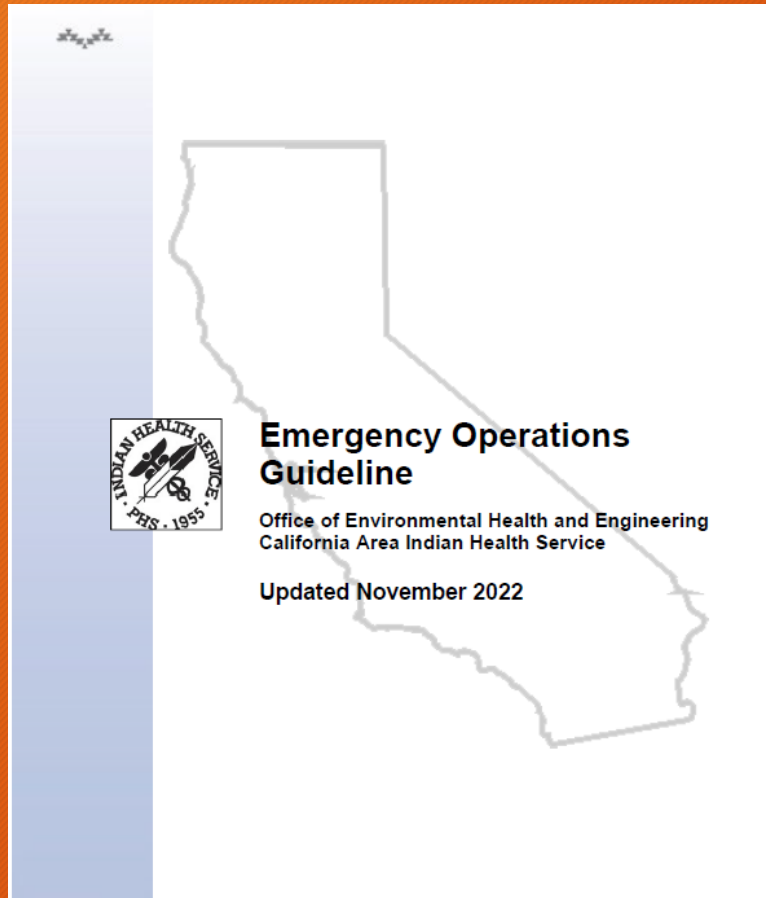
- Area EMPOC (Emergency Management Point of Contact)
 - Resource to Tribes/THPs seeking to link with state and federal emergency services and resources.
 - Liaison to:
 - California Area Director;
 - IHS Director;
 - HHS ASPR R9 and HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC);
 - Tribal liaisons at FEMA R9, CalOES, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), CDPH Medical Health Operational Area Coordination Contact (MHOAC).

CAIHS OEHE & Emergencies



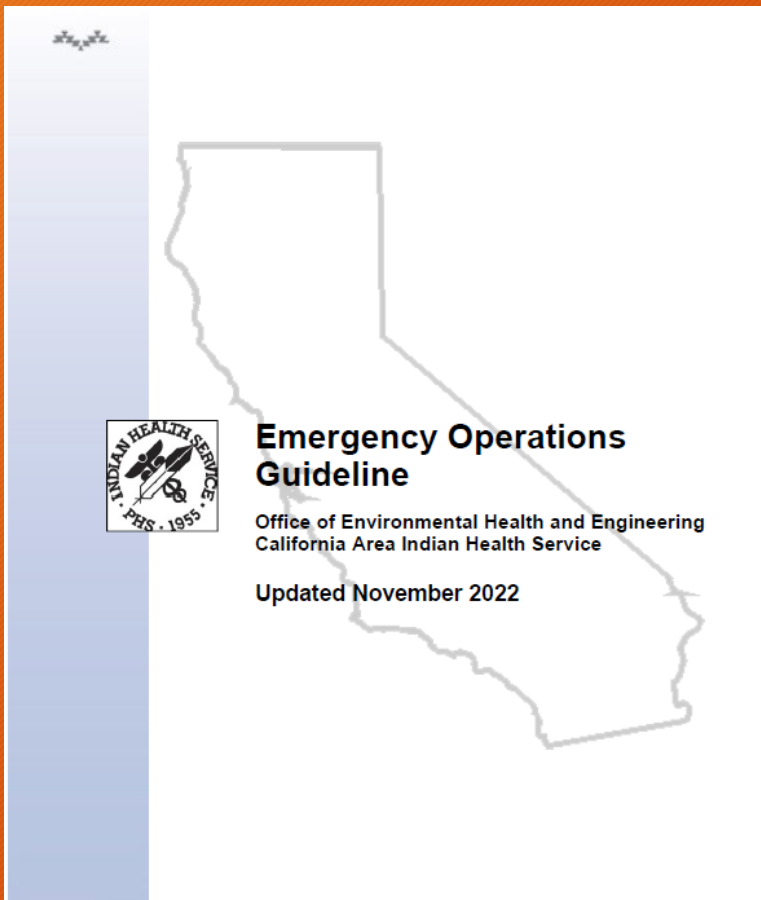
- Focus of OEHE EOG centers on ESF 8 functional areas.
- Offers services and support to mitigate the following public health threats associated with emergency events:
 - Access to potable water;
 - Collection and treatment of sewage;
 - Management of solid waste;
 - Food safety;
 - Mass sheltering;
 - Vector control;
 - Hazardous materials management;
 - Healthcare equipment and supplies;
 - Maintaining access to healthcare facilities.

OEHE Initial Response to an Emergency/ Disaster



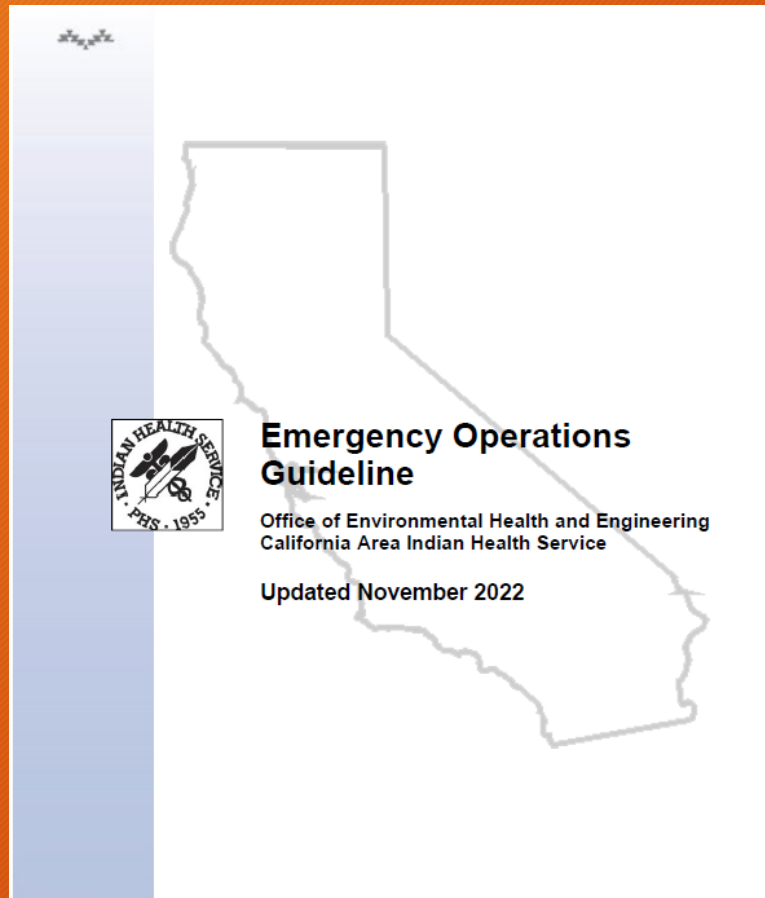
- OEHE initial activities during an emergency/disaster:
 - Assisting with distributing public health information;
 - Conducting initial damage assessments;
 - Inspecting of mass feeding and sheltering sites;
 - Assessing for other ESF-8 needs e.g. public health and medical services;
 - Support with liaising with state and federal agency contacts.

OEHE During an Emergency/Disaster



- OEHE activities during ongoing emergency/disaster:
 - Disseminating public health information;
 - Preparing detailed damage assessments;
 - Procuring resources such as temporary water/sewer, equipment and materials;
 - Restoring water and sewer utilities;
 - Inspecting of mass feeding and sheltering sites;
 - Identifying and abating imminent public health threats.

OEHE during Recovery from an Emergency/Disaster



- OEHE activities during recovery from an emergency/disaster:
 - Restoring power to affected facilities;
 - Identifying residual hazards;
 - Pre-occupancy assessments of buildings and facilities;
 - Restoring water and sewer utilities;
 - Assisting with preparing of applications for state and federal assistance (i.e. supporting documentation such as cost estimates/designs);
 - Installing facilities for disaster prevention and mitigation.

NOTE:

OEHE is not permitted to provide bottled water or fuel

Bottled water, food and fuel may be available through CalOES by contacting the CalOES Tribal Liaison



What does each Division have to offer during an emergency event?

Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

Division of Environmental Health Services

Division of Health Facilities Engineering

SFC: Emergency Support Resources



Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) offers the following during a disaster:

- Emergency water hauling services to keep water systems from going dry.
- Assessment of water and wastewater infrastructure damage and identification of needs.
- Troubleshooting and technical assistance to get water and wastewater systems functional after a disaster.
- Emergency funding to repair or replace individual or community water and wastewater systems affected by the disaster.
- Technical assistance to Tribes with obtaining funding from the State or other federal agencies for water and wastewater needs (i.e. supporting documentation such as cost estimates/designs).

SFC Emergency Support Resources



SFC offers the following during the disaster recovery phase:

- Detailed damage assessments.
- Procuring resources necessary to stabilize and/or restore water/sewer infrastructure functions and minimize associated health and safety threats.
- Engineering and construction cost estimates.
- Writing /reviewing scope of work for contracts.
- Defining technical specification and/or drafting solicitation packages for projects.

EHS Emergency Support Resources

Before a disaster/emergency, EHS is available to help Tribes and THPs prepare for emergencies:

- Identify training resources.
- Assist with the selection of emergency shelter sites.
- Assistance with the development of Emergency Preparedness and Response plans & drills.
 - [Wildfire Smoke Toolkit](#)
 - [Extreme Heat Toolkit](#)
 - [Public Water Utility Emergency Response Plan Template](#)
- Identify external funding resources for planning.
- Maintains small cache of supplies for rapid deployment in the event of an emergency (i.e. N95s).



IHS Sponsored CERT Training at
Consolidated Tribal Health
2018

EHS Emergency Support Resources



EHS offers the following during a disaster:

- Health and Safety Hazard Assessments
 - Emergency Shelter Surveys;
 - Food Sanitation & Water Hauler Inspections;
 - Mass feeding operations serving evacuees and responders;
 - Donated food/water.
 - CWS: guidance on issuing/lifting a boil water notice;
 - Investigation of disease outbreaks.
- Disseminate Public Health and Safety Information:
 - Identification, safe handling and disposal of hazardous materials/waste, solid waste;
 - Air quality (indoor/outdoor);
 - Drinking water safety;
 - Basic Sanitation;
 - Vector Control measures.

EHS Emergency Support Resources



EHS offers the following after a disaster:

- Health and Safety Hazard Assessments
 - Reoccupancy inspections of buildings
 - e.g. mold/moisture and IAQ assessments
 - Pre-operational inspections of food establishments
 - Guidance on lifting boil water notices
- Recovery/Clean-up Health and Safety guidance:
 - Guidance on mold abatement;
 - Guidance on PPE selection;
 - Respirator fit testing;
 - Waste characterization and disposal guidance.
- Disseminate Public Health and Safety Information to community regarding:
 - Safe procedures for cleaning up after fire/flood.
 - Vector control measures.

HFE Emergency Support Resources



Before an emergency/disaster, Health Facilities Engineering (HFE) offers:

- Operation & Maintenance planning.
- M&I/Financial planning.
- Drafting/reviewing scopes of work and technical specifications for projects.

HFE Recovery Support



- Facility Condition Assessments (FCA) can support insurance claims.
- Technical assistance with Operation & Maintenance.
- Engineering and construction cost estimates for repairs.
- Drafting/reviewing scopes of work and technical specifications for projects.

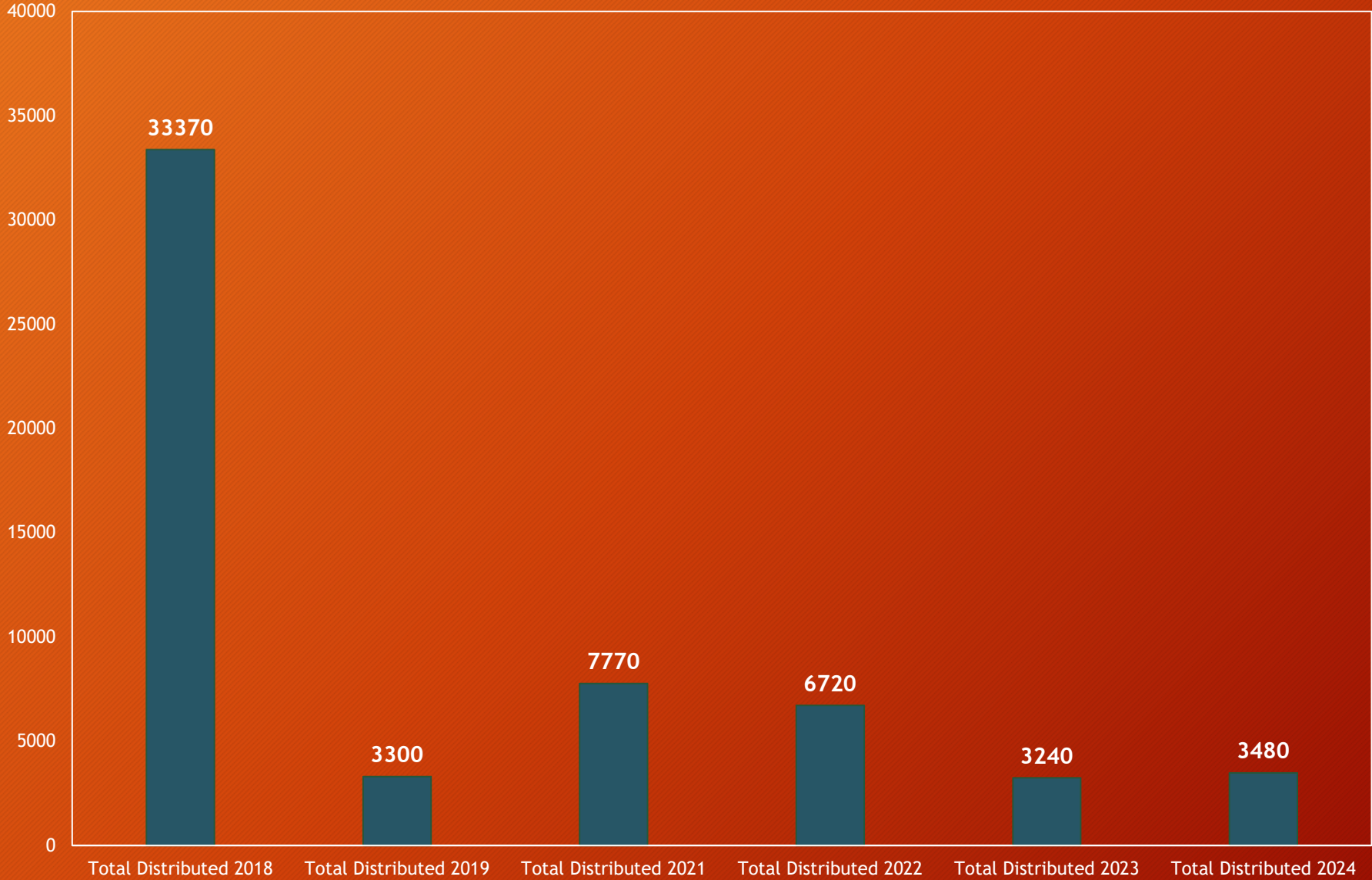
Summary of Activities in 2024

Jan. - August 2024

Activities in 2024

- Atmospheric River Storms January-February 2024
 - Monitored for impacts to tribal health programs and communities January - February 2024
 - TA to water operators to prepare for storms in January 2024
 - TA with issuing/lifting a boil water notice at Yurok in January 2024
 - TA with restoring Yurok water plant shut down due to high load of silt/sand in source water associated with heavy runoff/fallen tree damaging intake pipe in January 2024
 - Distributed factsheet for THPs with guidance on preparing for winter storms in February 2024
 - TA with declining water storage to Kashia Band (Stewarts Point) and Manchester Band (Point Arena) whose water systems were impacted by prolonged power outage in February 2024
- Wildfires 2024:
 - Community member training regarding wildfire smoke health hazards and protective measures at HVT in February 2024
 - Community member training regarding basic emergency preparedness provided at Colusa in April 2024
 - Distributed 65 air purifiers and 22 cases of N95s to 6 tribal health programs

TOTAL Wildfire N95 MASKS DISTRIBUTED 2018-2024

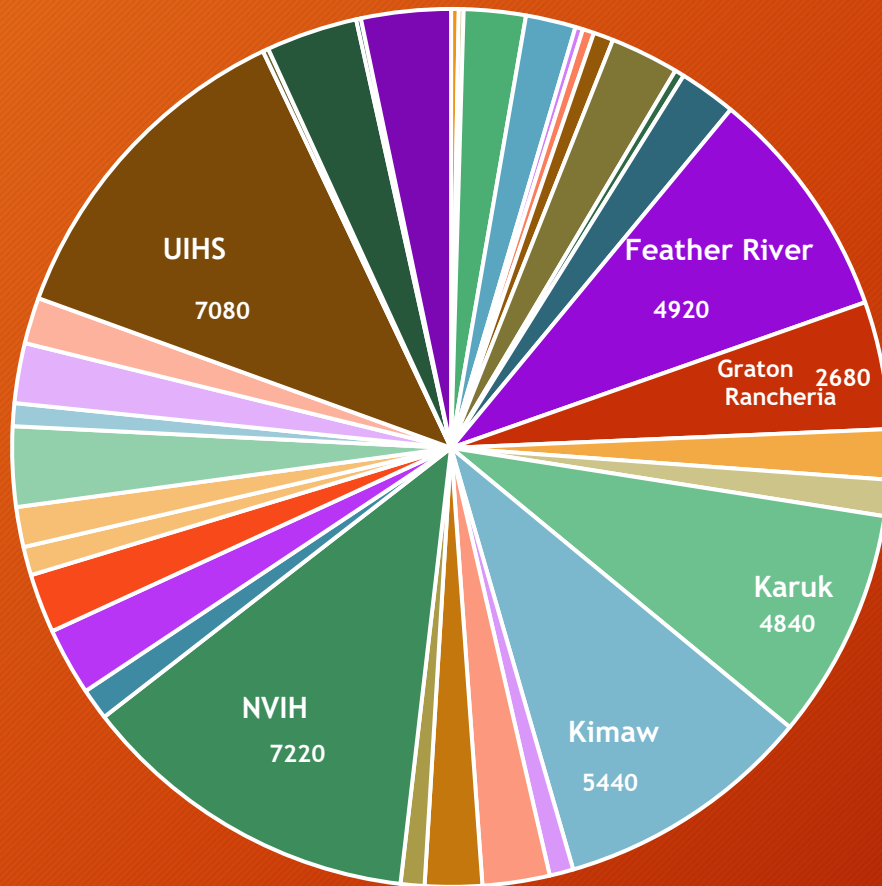


*Excludes N95 distributed as part of COVID-19 Response

NOTE: nothing distributed in 2020

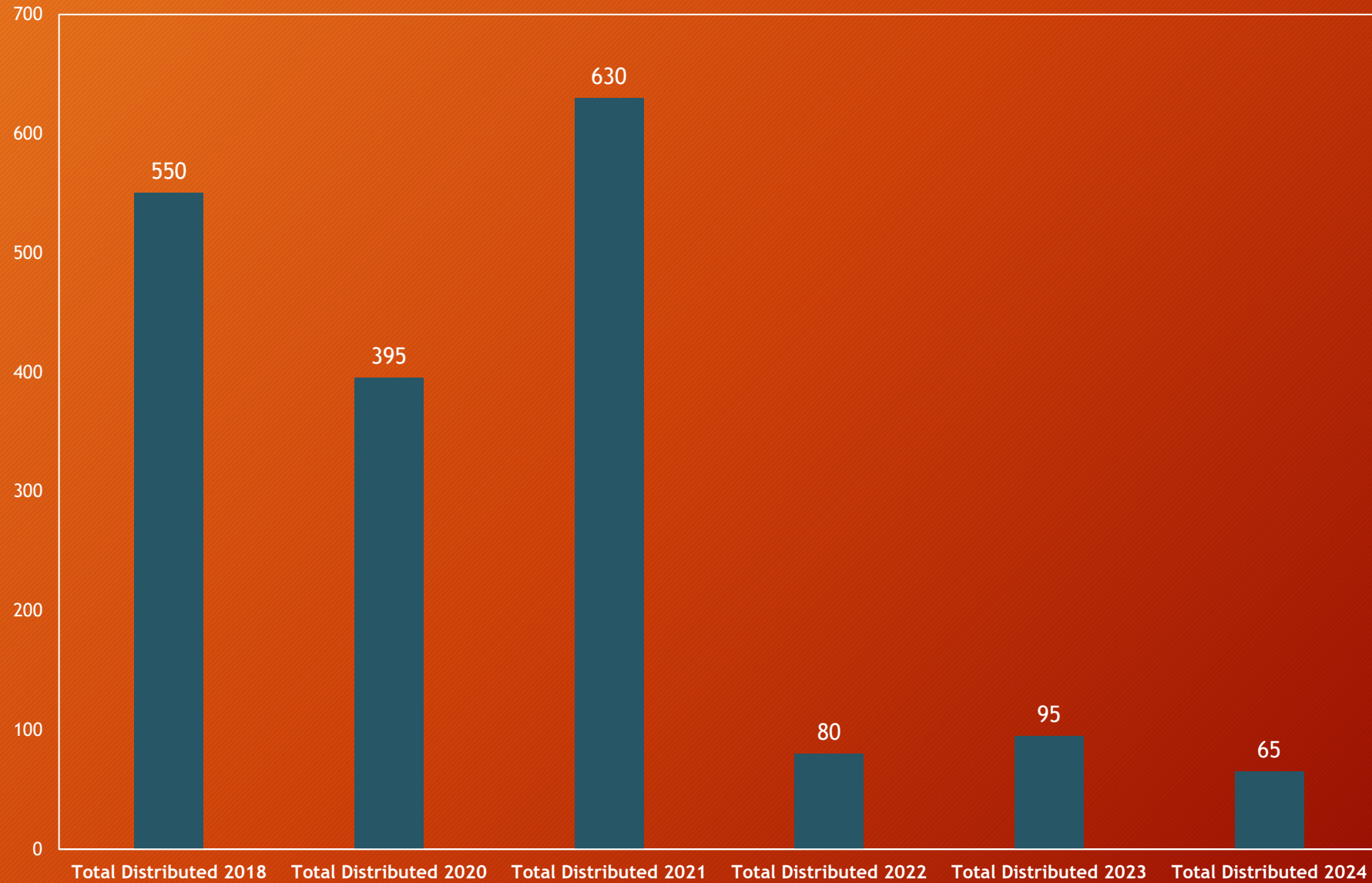
Total Wildfire N95 Distributed 2018-2024

Total N95
Respirators
Distributed to
Date:
57,040



- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Central Valley
- Consolidated Tribal Health Program
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Greenville Rancheria
- Kima:w Medical Center
- Mechoopda Indian Tribe
- North Fork Rancheria
- Redding Rancheria Tribal Health (Redding, Churn Creek)
- Round Valley Indian Tribe
- UIHS
- Wiyot Tribe
- Berry Creek Rancheria
- Cold Springs Rancheria
- Coyote Valley Band
- Feather River Tribal Health
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
- Lassen/Susanville Indian Rancheria
- Middletown Rancheria (Twin Pine Casino Evac. Center)
- Pit River Health Service
- Redding Rancheria Tribal Office
- Sonoma County Tribal Health Program
- Upper Lake Habematolel Pomo
- Yurok Tribe (Weitchpec)
- Big Valley Band of Pomo
- Colusa Hand in Hand Day Care
- Elem Indian Colony
- Graton Rancheria
- Karuk Tribal Health Program
- MACT
- Northern Valley Indian Health
- Quartz Valley
- Rolling Hills Clinic (Paskenta Band)
- Tuolumne Indian Health Center
- Warner Mountain

HEPA AIR PURIFIERS Total Distributed 2018-2024

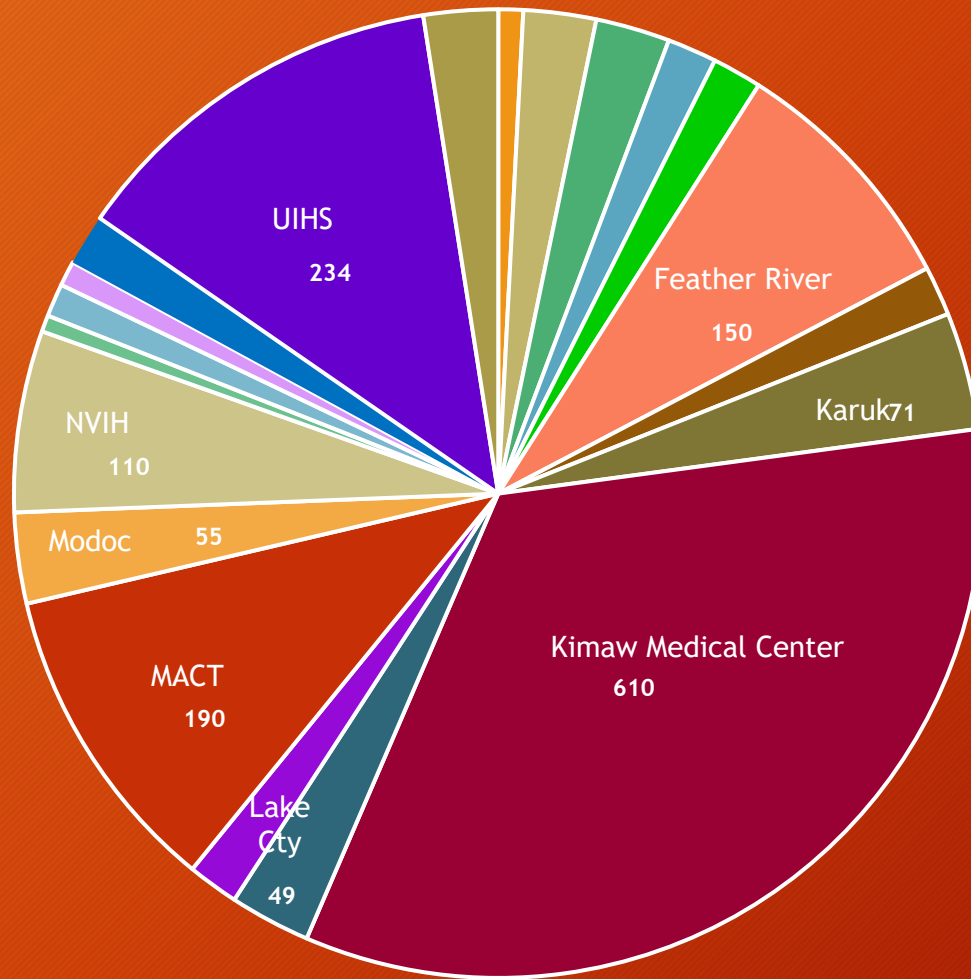


N = 1815
1011 by CAIHS
804 by NSSC

NOTE: nothing distributed in 2019

Proportion of Air Purifiers Distributed To Each THP 2018-2024

N = 1815
 1011 by CAIHS
 804 by NSSC



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| ■ Anav Tribal Health Clinic (Quartz Valley) | ■ Central Valley Indian Health | ■ Chapa De | ■ Consolidated Tribal Health Project |
| ■ Enterprise Rancheria | ■ Feather River Tribal Health | ■ Greenville Rancheria | ■ Karuk Tribe |
| ■ Kimaw Medical Center | ■ Lake County TH | ■ Lassen (Susanville Indian Rancheria) | ■ MACT |
| ■ Modoc | ■ NVIH | ■ Pit River Health Service | ■ Round Valley Indian Health Center |
| ■ Shingle Springs TH | ■ Tule River Indian Health Center | ■ UIHS | ■ Warner Mountain |

I have an Emergency, who should I call?

For small scale emergencies, depending on the nature of the emergency, contact your local IHS engineer, utilities consultant, environmental health specialist or health facilities engineer.

For large scale emergencies, contact any of the above or the IHS Area EMPOC

Redding District Office

LT Rinnah Wyatt, District Environmental Health Officer

PH: 530-246-5339 x28312

Cell: 530-510-3245

Email: rinnah.wyatt@ihs.gov

Feather River (Berry Creek, Mooretown, Enterprise), Greenville, Karuk, Modoc (Alturas, Cedarville Ranch), Pit River, Quartz Valley (Anav Clinic), Redding Rancheria, Rolling Hills (Paskenta), Susanville (Lassen Tribal Health), Warner Mountain (Fort Bidwell)

Arcata Field Office

Aaron Alexander, Field Environmental Health Officer

PH: 707-833-1688 x22207

Cell: 707-239-2559

Email: aaron.alexander@ihs.gov

Hoopla Valley, UIHS-Tsurai (Blue Lake, Big Lagoon, Cher-ae Heights (*Trinidad*), Elk Valley, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' (*Smith River*), Yurok Tribe of Hoopa Valley, Rohnerville (*Bear River*), Wiyot Tribe (*Table Bluff*)) Consolidated Tribal Health (Cahto (*Laytonville*), Coyote Valley, Guidiville, Hopland, Pinoleville, Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Sherwood Valley), Lake County (Big Valley, Elem, Middletown, Robinson, Scotts Valley, Upper Lake (*Habematolel*)), Round Valley (Covelo), Sonoma County Health (Cloverdale, Dry Creek, Kashia Band (*Stewarts Point*), Graton, Lytton, Manchester Point)

Sacramento District Office

CDR Tim Shelhamer, District Environmental Health Officer

PH: 916-930-3981 x21338

Cell: 707-380-3693

Email: tim.shelhamer@ihs.gov

Chapa De (Auburn), **Colusa** (Cachil Dehe Band); **Northern Valley** (Chico (*Mechoopda*), Cortina, Grindstone, Yocha Dehe Wintun (*Rumsey*)), **Shingle Springs**, **Wilton Rancheria (NG)**

Clovis Field Office

Alyssa Bernido, Field Environmental Health Officer

PH: 559-322-7488 x27306

Cell: 599-207-4364

Email: alysa.bernido@ihs.gov

Central Valley (Big Sandy, Cold Springs, North Fork, Picayune, Santa Rosa Community), **MACT** (Buena Vista, Lone Band, Jackson, Sheep Ranch (*California Valley Miwok*)), **Mathieson Memorial Health Clinic** (Chicken Ranch), **Santa Ynez**, **Table Mountain Rancheria**, **Tule River**, **Tuolumne**

Escondido District Office

Brian Lewelling, District Environmental Health Officer

PH: 760-735-6880 x23891

Email: brian.lewelling@ihs.gov

Cabazon, **Indian Health Council** (Inaja (*Cosmit*), La Jolla, Los Coyotes, Mesa Grande, Pala, Pauma (*& Yuima*), Rincon, San Pasqual, Santa Ysabel), **Southern Indian Health Council** (Barona, Campo, Capitan Grande, Cuyapaibe, Jamul, La Posta, Manzanita, Viejas), **Sycuan**

Area EMPOC

Carolyn Garcia, Division of Environmental Health Services Director

PH: 916-930-3981 x21336

Cell: 916-599-9900

Email: carolyn.garcia2@ihs.gov

State Agency Tribal Liaisons

Department of Health Care Services

Rose Garcia, DHCS Tribal Emergency
Preparedness and Response Program
Coordinator

Office of Tribal Affairs

PH: 916-713-8621

Email: rose.garcia@dhcs.ca.gov

CalOES Office of Tribal Coordination

Helen Lopez, Assistant Director

Email: helen.lopez@caloes.ca.gov

PH: 916-845-8534

MOBILE: 916-612-9009

Gabe Kearney, Tribal Liaison Northern
California

Email: gabe.kearney@caloes.ca.gov

MOBILE: 916-926-9542

Alex Shariatmadari, Tribal Liaison
Southern California

Email: alex.shariatmadari@caloes.ca.gov

MOBILE: 916-754-6942

Thank You!

Carolyn Garcia, REHS, MSPH
Division of Environmental Health Services
California Area Indian Health Service