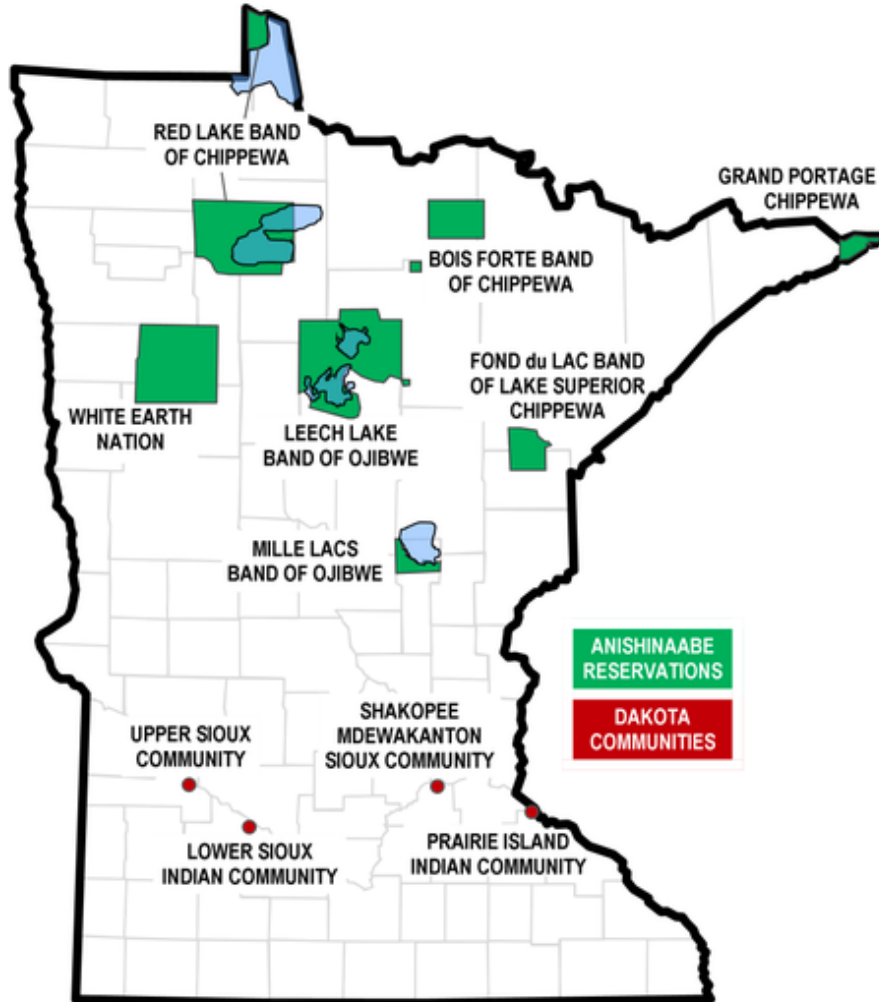


White Earth Nation Emergency Response

Rachel LaFrinier

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Minnesota Tribal Nations



- 2 Tribes
 - Anishinaabe (7 reservations)
 - Dakota (4 communities)
- 11 Tribal Nations
- Unique leadership structures
- Operate by a set of laws and codes approved by a governing body

White Earth Nation

- Anishinaabe, Ojibwe, Chippewa
- Located in Becker, Clearwater, and Mahnomen counties
- About 225 miles from Minneapolis – St. Paul
- About 65 miles from Fargo (ND) – Moorhead (MN)
- Created in 1867 by treaty



Rachel's Background

- Mahnomen hospital writing plans and responding to emergencies
- White Earth reached out
- Knew the White Earth emergency manager whole life
 - Immediate working connection due to history
- Knew ICS structure

Train Derailment, March 2016

- One year after starting position
- Village of Callaway, Becker County
- Pop. 232 (2017)
- Semi-truck hit train at intersection
- Propane Tank derailed
- Role: Operations/Logistics
 - Obtaining food for responders
- Unified Command with county and tribe
- EM pulled in White Earth PH
 - After it was deemed safe

Train Derailment, March 2016

- Lessons Learned:
 - Phone numbers
 - Evacuating families and partnership with casinos
 - ‘Feeding and watering” 21 responding fire departments

Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado, June 2016

- Rice Lake, Clearwater County
- Pop. 235 (2010)
- 5 day incident
- No power in village
- Numerous trees down, no travel possible
- Response efforts included:
 - Welfare checks
 - Coordinating with homecare, electrically dependent people
 - Generators
 - Extra oxygen with e-tanks
 - emPOWER* issues
 - Does not include people covered under IHS
 - If people are covered under IHS then Medicare does not cover.

*emPOWER provides information on people on Medicare who are electrically dependent

Operation RiverLand Freeze, Jan. 30, 2019

- Planning started January 28
- Weather predictions for extremely frigid air
- Actual temps: 36 – 38 degrees BELOW 0.
- Add windchill factor = 70 degrees below 0.
- People lost heat
 - Poor building construction
 - Propane tank and regulators kept 'gelling' up – fuel couldn't flow

Operation RiverLand Freeze, Jan. 30, 2019

- Response activities:
 - Emergency shelters
 - Used the Shooting Star Casino
 - Processed people through Bingo Hall.
 - Shuttled them to the Casino.
 - Ideal shelter since no one was heading out to gamble!
 - Housed 206 people (~50 families)
 - Provided 3 meals a day
 - Used Red Cross format
 - (Rachel had taken Red Cross shelter training)

Operation We Are One, March 2019

- Murder/Suicide involving police chief's daughter and grandchildren.
- Tribal Council requested an EOC to address community's response
- Response activities:
 - Coordinate mental health services
 - Staff deployed to schools
 - Requested and coordinated outside resources
 - Provided after care coordination

Overdose Response Team, Ongoing

- Working with EMS and White Earth Public Safety
- Notification when heightened number of overdoses
- Or hear directly from clients (tipping point)
- Deploy people into villages to do education and Narcon training
- Minnesota is seeing increases in overdoses, EXCEPT White Earth
 - Seen a 56% decrease

Success is...

- Lessons learned applied and each response improves
 - Communication difficulties during Callaway train derailment = improved communication
 - Central information sharing through TEAMS (like SharePoint) that is available for anyone responding. Able to keep resource lists, identify clients with special needs, electrically dependent, run welfare checks
- EM given increased responsibilities after train derailment
- Tribal Council delegated authorities to EM, Public Health EP coordinator, and White Earth PD for ALL responses
- Being called upon for non-emergency community coordination (e.g., garbage / clean-up day)

Questions?

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