



# Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council

WASHINGTON STATE TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY

Dear Maria Gardipee,

LUMMI  
MAKAH  
NOOKSACK  
SAMISH  
SAUK-SUIATTLE  
SHOALWATER  
BAY  
SNOQUALMIE  
STILLAGUMISH  
SWINOMISH  
TULALIP  
UPPER SKAGIT

In 2005, Washington State Homeland Security Council Region 1 unanimously approved funding for the creation of the NW Tribal Emergency Management Council (NWTEMC). In an effort to establish a statewide consortium, Tribes from across the State of Washington began to partner for the purpose of addressing homeland security and emergency management issues. Today, we have gone statewide with our organization and are currently accepting new partners from across Washington State. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a little bit more history about the consortium, as well as solicit your participation in this year's event.

## History:

The Region I Homeland Security Tribes of Washington were at a severe disadvantage to address Emergency Management and Homeland Security Mandates and Initiatives due to lack of funded personnel to perform these functions. In addition to the lack of personnel to address the practical application of the needed scope of work, the Tribes were at a disadvantage to apply for grants for this very same reason. With the implementation of NIMS, the established implementation dates of many other related emergency management functions and the severe consequences that have been implemented for failure to comply; the Tribes continue to move toward creating a permanent solution. The creation of the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council is the first step toward addressing the many critical issues that face Washington State Tribes today.

A solution was proposed to form a pilot project, the consortium of Tribes of Region 1.

The Tribes of Region created a consortium of the eight Tribes for the purpose of Homeland Security to govern and oversee a needs assessment, develop a scope of work and propose deliverables. The Tulalip Tribes and the Lummi Nation, actively involved in the Region I Homeland Security Council since its inception, created many of the mandated documents, ordinances and programs required to pursue Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Through a proposed consortium of the eight Tribes in Region I, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington took the lead agency position for the purpose of administering of grants. The eight Tribes collectively provided In-Kind Support toward this request. The request for funding primarily consisted of two phases. In Phase One, the funding request was that for two FTE positions to include one Homeland Security Coordinator and one Homeland Security Planner to come from '04 dollars. The Coordinator was housed at the Lummi Nation. The Planner was housed at the Tulalip Tribes. The Coordinator and the Planner were governed by the NWTEMC and offered homeland security related services to all eight Tribes. These two newly created positions worked in concert with two existing positions, one at Tulalip and one at Lummi, whose primary functions were the application of Emergency Management related services. The Phase Two funding request came from '05 dollars and assisted in covering these same two FTE positions for the Homeland Security Manager and Planner. In-kind contributions and Alternative Resources continued to cover operational costs. In '06, our funds were reduced to support only one FTE. We are still pending '07 funding, if it is approved for the Region.

The initial formation of a governance process involving a preliminary agreement reached with each of the Tribe's was developed. This agreement now provides the Tribes with a complete understanding of the overall vision and the need for success. The forum developed as a result of these meetings and now provides the Tribal Governments with the ability to openly discuss all aspects of regional Homeland Security and Emergency Management related issues. More importantly, this Consortium has become the means by which establishing effective communication, mutual trust and allowing for consensus regarding further actions may occur.

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A formal Charter has been developed for the group. This document details the commitment of each Tribe to take the next step by establishing the designated representatives for the project by resolution. The Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council (NWTEMC) has begun instituting the basic operational parameters for Homeland Security requirements and functional analysis while moving the project forward.

The NWTEMC now addresses the needs for administrative and operational support, as well as oversight requirements for implementation of mutual technical projects. The NWTEMC also addresses associated administrative issues such as any Resolutions, Ordinances, Memorandum of Understandings, etc, as well as the establishment of a management infrastructure.

The governance infrastructure includes basic rules under which the Council operates, including Robert's Revised Rules of Order. The Council has formed and operates through the establishment of a majority rule, one-agency one-vote participatory process that applies equally regardless of an agency's size or jurisdiction. This structure ensures that all voices are equally heard and all concerns are addressed.

The Council also utilizes working groups from all levels of the represented agencies to address administrative functions, legal issues, logistical support, and technical development. The delegation of responsibilities among working groups reduces the requirement for the Council to deal with the day-to-day issues while maintaining their continued oversight.

A substantial portion of the initial developmental effort for the project has focused on identifying Tribal Homeland Security issues, Tribal program preparedness and analysis and regional policy development. The NWTEMC members have initially been comprised of the WA State Region I Homeland Security Council Tribal representatives, however, has now expanded to include Tribes from throughout Washington State. This governing body has worked diligently to keep the focus of this group on emergency management and preparedness, discouraging the potential for this council to be redirected toward any other purpose.

Twice a year, we hold a seminar to bring all of our partners together for the purpose of information sharing, education and systems building. This year, we have a conference scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **BUDGET & REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION:**

Many of our Tribal nations have been tasked with unfunded mandates and initiatives. These conferences have been assisting the Tribes in becoming more familiar with the realm of emergency preparedness as it pertains to the overall arching field of emergency management. As we know, it is from the relationships and partnerships that we build with one another that success in emergency response is born.

Some of our Tribes have been fortunate enough to have received grants, but with those grants, usually come deliverables that require personnel to complete them. Unfortunately, these grants from any one source have typically not been enough money to hire full-time personnel to address the full scope of needs that the Tribes have. These conferences give the Tribes a venue to meet in which we are able to bring many of the Tribes and funding sources together to create collaborative partnerships that mutually benefit all. Because, again, as I stated earlier, the sole purpose of the conference is to promote relationships and partnerships through information sharing, while creating permanent solutions through systems building in the realm of emergency management.

This year, the Tulalip Tribes was successful in acquiring a small grant to continue these efforts, however, the funds are not enough to invite all of the partners that we would like to include.

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The hotel can arrange a block of thirty rooms. This block of rooms allows me to pay for one room for each of the 29 Tribes and one for the NWTEMC representative. The rate is within Per Diem rates for the Bellevue area. This location was chosen due to its proximity to the major thoroughfare that connects the Eastside Tribes to that of the Westside of the State of Washington.

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We will be providing a continental breakfast for the attendees, as well as a lunch. I have made arrangements for promotional items that will be donated by several of the Tribes. I have two conference speakers that will charge for their services. We will be sending out approximately 125 invitations with an expected show rate of 80% or 100. This is what our conference show rate was for the past two conferences. We have had as many as 27 of the 29 Tribes respond to our invitations.

**Total Budget Request:** I would like to request that the Washington State Department of Health consider funding \$10,000 of the total cost for this years conference. This proposal would assure that an equal distribution of the funds was applied to each Tribe in the State of Washington. All vendors have agreed to work within State Per Diem rates and are holding additional rooms for any Department of Health Personnel that will join us.

I believe that if the Washington State Department of Health is able to assist us in funding this event, we will be able to invite all of the partners that we believe are critical players in the realm of emergency management and preparedness. Invitations have also been extended to Governor Gregoire, as well as Senator Cantwell's Office. We believe that this 2007 Annual NWTEMC Conference will be the center of much National Attention and the DOH will be credited with helping make this conference a reality.

I thank you in advance.

Lynda Harvey

PS. I have included the following supporting documentation for your review.

The Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council has created a website to further promote information sharing and communication. The following pages reflect several excerpts from the website. Please note that we have worked toward fostering relationships with all relevant partners, to include our local counties, the State of Washington, the Department of Health and FEMA; the website can be found at [www.NWTEMC.org](http://www.NWTEMC.org) :

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- LUMMI
- MAKAH
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- SNOQUALMIE
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## Purpose

The development of the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council not only better prepares Tribal entities for emergency incidents, but will also provide more opportunities for the Tribes to work collaboratively to assist one another in meeting the mandates of related emergency management programs and foster partnerships with their neighboring counties and municipalities. The Department of Homeland Security's guidance identifies tribal entities as key stakeholders in partnerships with state, local and private sectors.

## Homeland Security

Homeland Security within the tribal communities is a critical issue. Due to a lack of funding and personnel the tribes have had great difficulty meeting the mandates and initiatives of the Department of Homeland Security. The tribes of Northwest Washington have come together to address these critical issues, some of these include:

- Residing within close proximity of an international border or waterway
- 40,000+ underrepresented citizens within reservation boundaries, including tribal residents, non-tribal residents, and transient populations (Casino patrons, employees, etc). and
- Limited infrastructure to provide first response to the communities served

These homeland security concerns and others affirm the need for full tribal participation in the National Homeland Security effort.

## Emergency Management

As the tribes of Northwest Washington have begun to address Homeland Security issues we have recognized the need to take an all-hazards approach to protecting our communities. Emergency Management is the avenue that is being pursued to address the many hazards that our reservations are vulnerable to. Some of these hazards include:

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- Earthquakes
- Floods
- Severe Weather
- Tsunami
- Hazardous Materials

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Our consortium will continue to build the tribal capabilities to respond to the hazards we face.

## **Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

The Tribes of the State of Washington will work together to share resources, knowledge, and skills to develop comprehensive public emergency planning documents, address public health jurisdiction issues, and provide a network of expertise. The consortium will work with county, regional, state, and federal public health partners to bring the most up to date and comprehensive information and plans to the communities served by the tribal clinics.

## **NWTEMC Statewide Project**

After nearly one year in existence the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council has been recognized as a valuable resource to emergency management and homeland security programs for the Tribes it serves. There have been numerous recommendations and requests that the program be expanded to include all the Tribes of Washington State. Some of the individuals that have made comments or recommendations include Jim Mullen, Director of the Washington State Emergency Management Division, Tribal Liaison for FEMA Region X Andrew Hendrickson, and several leaders from interested Tribes. Claude Cox, TOSHA Director for the Colville Tribes, and Fuzzy Fletcher of the Snoqualmie Tribe have repeatedly expressed interest in participating with Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council as soon as they can. To that end, we at Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council propose that we seriously consider expanding our program to include Tribes from across the state who are interested.

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## Save the Date

**November 15, 16, 2007**

**The Red Lion**

**9:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**Snacks and Lunch provided**

**RSVP's requested by: October 15<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Guest Speakers:**

**TBA**

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

Join Us For:

#### Day 1

- ✚ **NWTEMC Update-Tribal Presentations-Best Practices**
- ✚ **HLS & Importance of Local Partnerships (FEMA-EMD-DEM-PH-DOH-DOE-HLS)**
- ✚ **NIMS 2007**
- ✚ **DOH-Health Care Coalition, Smart PH, New Contract Deliverables, Wa Secures, Pan Flu Plans**
- ✚ **The NEW NWTEMC Statewide Medical Reserve Corps**
- ✚ **The NEW Statewide Tribal R.A.C.E.S**
- ✚ **The NEW Statewide Tribal CERT Program**
- ✚ **Homeland Security and Tribal Casinos-Federal Information Sharing Port**

#### Day 2

- ✚ **Training & Grants Updates (HLS-DOH-EMPG-EMD)**

**We will be writing actual grants on the second day. Gina Yarbrough (DOH) and Rachel Sova (EMD) will be joining us for these sessions.**

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## (Sample Invitation)

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April 5, 2007

Stanley G. Jones  
Tribal Council Chairman  
The Tulalip Tribes  
6700 Totem Beach Road  
Marysville, WA 98271

Dear Chairman Jones,

The Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council would like to cordially invite you to attend our Seminar being held on November 15 & 16, 2007 at the Red Lion in Bellevue from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The Seminar will focus on bringing together Tribal officials, along with local, state and federal partners to provide you with an opportunity to discuss emergency preparedness in our Tribal communities. We are hoping to partner with other Tribal Communities, local responders and state agencies in an effort to build relationships prior to events that may affect us all today and in the future. This year's conference theme is "Building Bridges through Partnerships." Our focus in 2007 has been to identify partnerships and resources that allow us to maximize our collective abilities to provide for safer communities.

I have enclosed a flyer and agenda to assist you with your scheduling. We look forward to seeing you at the Seminar. Request RSVP to Lynda Harvey at 360-651-3295 or email her at [lyndaharvey@nwtemc.org](mailto:lyndaharvey@nwtemc.org) by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Sincerely,

Lynda Harvey  
Director  
NWTEMC

### **For Program Information and Registration Contact:**

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Chair, NW Tribal Emergency Management Council  
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