

**Tribal Relations
Support Annex
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

Lead Agency: Division of Emergency Management

Supporting Departments/Agencies: Local Affairs.

I. Purpose

This annex provides guidance to all components of the State government for establishing relations with Indian tribes during Incidents of National Significance. The purpose of tribal relations is to ensure that affected Indian tribes and their communities are aware of available State assistance programs and processes in the event of an Incident of National Significance.

II. Scope

This annex covers all aspects of State government relations with Indian tribes.

III. Policies

- A. Tribal relations facilitate State department and agencies' compliance with various laws and Executive Orders mandating that the Federal government deal with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis. This status reflects Indian tribes' right of self-government as sovereign domestic dependent nations.
- B. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) implements National tribal affairs policy, appoints a tribal relations coordinator, and deploys field officers and other available personnel to assist Indian tribes in dealing with Incidents of National Significance.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall prepare for and respond to incidents in coordination with affected Indian tribes through a Tribal Relations Coordinator, collecting relevant information on the situation, alerting and deploying required tribal relations staff to or near the affected area.

B. Organization: The following organization applies nationally and regional.

1. Operations

- a. A Tribal Relations Operations Element is located with the JFO and is comprised of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor tribal relations coordinator, the Bureau of Indian Affairs coordinator, the tribal relations officer from DHS, and support staff assigned to facilitate tribal relations. The Operations Element is responsible for organizing and managing the tribal relations field component to facilitate government-to-government relations with Indian tribes, and interface with community organizations, and disaster victims.
 - b. The field component may be divided into geographic areas and sectors, depending on the size and nature of the incident.
 2. Support: Depending on the size and nature of the incident, the Tribal Relations Operations Element may include an Information Element to manage the timely flow of information to and from the FCO, JFO, tribal relations field component and others as needed.
- C. Notification Procedure: In response to an anticipated or actual event, tribal relations officials will be notified, activated and deployed through the Office of the Lieutenant Governor's Tribal Relations Coordinator.
- D. Actions: All State government actions are taken in a manner that supports government to-government relations with tribes to the extent possible. A tribe may, however, opt to be treated as a local government and deal directly with State and local officials.
1. Prevention: State agencies provide all possible support to Federally recognized tribes in preventing all-hazard incidents. This support includes cooperating with State, local, and private entities in identifying critical infrastructure and key resources located on or interdependent with Indian tribes.
 2. Preparedness: State agencies cooperate with Federally recognized tribes to the extent possible to promote tribal all-hazards preparedness.
 3. Response: The number of State tribal relations field officers and extent of involvement throughout incident response and recovery operations is governed by procedures set out in ESF #15.
 4. Recovery: The Tribal Relations Operations Element ensures recovery operations follow guidance from the JFO Coordination Group.

IV. Responsibilities

- A. Coordinating Agency: Office of the Lieutenant Governor
 - 1. In conjunction with the incident-affected Indian tribes, ensures an efficient and reliable flow of incident-related information between Indian tribes, State government, and the Federal government.
 - 2. Supply the Tribal Relations Coordinator with a staff of trained personnel.
 - 3. Establishes and adheres to standardized procedures that provide for a consistent level of tribal relations with Indian tribes.

- B. Cooperating Agencies: All Federal Departments and Agencies
 - 1. Provide services as stated in State Emergency Operations Plan, Executive Orders, and other applicable authorities.
 - 2. Conform to appropriate Tribal Relations guidelines.