



2026

Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference and Training

May 4 - 8, 2026
Quinault Beach
Casino and Resort



2026 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference



Day 1: Monday, May 4, 2026

7:00 _{AM} - 8:00 _{AM}	Pre-Conference Training Registration - Pre-Function Area	
	General Room	Breakout Room A
8:00 _{AM} - 12:00 _{PM}	FFAST Training AM Session	Mass Fatality & Reunification Training AM Session
12:00 _{PM} - 1:00 _{PM}	Lunch Break	
1:00 _{PM} - 5:00 _{PM}	FFAST Training PM Session	Mass Fatality & Reunification Training PM Session

Day 2: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

	General Room	Breakout Room A
8:00 _{AM} - 12:00 _{PM}	FFAST Training AM Session	Mass Fatality & Reunification Training AM Session
12:00 _{PM} - 1:00 _{PM}	Lunch Break	
1:00 _{PM} - 5:00 _{PM}	FFAST Training PM Session	Mass Fatality & Reunification Training PM Session
3:00 _{PM} - 5:00 _{PM}	General Conference Registration - Pre-Function Area	

Day 3: Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00 _{AM} - 9:00 _{AM}	General Conference Registration - Pre-Function Area
8:00 _{AM} - 9:00 _{AM}	Buffet Breakfast - Pre-Function Area
9:00 _{AM} - 9:30 _{AM}	<p>Welcome and Opening</p> <p><i>Nicole Smith, Senior Biostatistician, Environmental Public Health, NPAIHB</i> <i>Prayer: Kathy Law, Quinault Elder</i> <i>Posting of the Colors: Color Guard, Drum Group</i> <i>Tribal Welcome: President Guy Capoeman, Quinault Indian Nation</i></p>
<p>Session 1</p> <p>9:30_{AM} - 10:15_{AM}</p>	<p>Lessons Learned from the Unexpected: An All-Hazards Approach</p> <p><i>Daniel Ravenel, Emergency Management Manager, Quinault Indian Nation</i> <i>Elyse Kelsey, WA Sea Grant Fellowship</i> <i>Desiree Markishtum, Emergency Coordinator, Quinault Indian Nation</i></p>
<p>Session 2</p> <p>10:15_{AM} - 11:00_{AM}</p>	<p>The Unseen Emergency: Environmental Health Threats That Become Public Health Crises</p> <p><i>Brian Fullen, EHS Officer, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</i></p>



2026 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference



Day 3: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 (continued)

	General Room	Breakout Room A	Breakout Room B
Session 3 11:05 _{AM} - 11:45 _{AM}	Part 1: Preventing Foodborne Outbreaks at Temporary Events <i>Tia Skerbeck, Councilwoman, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Ryan Sealy, Environmental Public Health Director, NPAIHB; Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB; Faith Turk, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, AIHC</i>	Applying High-Resolution LiDAR in Emergency Management for the Nez Perce Tribe <i>Brent Lloyd, GIS Analyst, Nez Perce Tribe</i>	Strengthening Tribal Emergency Response: AMBER Alert Implementation in Indian Country <i>Amy Hood-Schwindt, Associate, NCJTC at Fox Valley Technical College</i>
Session 4 11:50 _{AM} - 12:30 _{PM}	Part 2: Coordination and Communication During Foodborne Illness Outbreaks <i>CDR Christopher Fish, Director, Division of Environmental Health Services, Portland Area IHS</i>	Bridging the Gap: Connecting Communities to Critical Resources During Emergencies <i>Jessica Wilkinson, Medical Logistics Supervisor, WA State Department of Health</i>	The Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) Alert: A National Indigenous-Led Solution to Protect Our People <i>Brian Wadsworth, Chief Operating Officer, Native Public Media</i>
12:30 _{PM} - 1:30 _{PM}	Buffet Lunch - Pre-Function Area		
Session 5 1:30 _{PM} - 3:00 _{PM}	Active Shooters Training: How to Barricade and Secure Your Doors & Windows & Plan Your Escape Route <i>Dan Martinez & Wymon Harry, Emergency Management Department, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</i>	Financial Resilience in Disaster Recovery: Insurance, Sovereignty, and Community Protection <i>Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison, WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner</i>	Saving Lives on Tribal Roads: Community Driven Traffic Safety Solutions in Tribal Communities <i>Penny Rarick, Tribal Liaison, WA Traffic Safety Commission</i>
Session 6 3:05 _{PM} - 3:50 _{PM}	When You Need A Little Help From Above: General Aviation to the Rescue <i>Steve Aberle, COML, Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team</i>	Long-Term Recovery Strategies: Building Tribal Resilience After Wildfire & Disaster <i>Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison, WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner</i>	Enhancing Workforce Preparedness and Collaboration for Climate-Related Emergency Response in Tribal Communities <i>Audrianna Marzette, Program Manager, National Indian Health Board; Kjell Schiöberg, Climate Ready Project Lead, Marimn Health</i>
3:50 _{PM} - 6:00 _{PM}	Social Hour - Pre-Function Area Hors d'oeuvres & Refreshments Available		



2026 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference



Day 4: Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:00 _{AM} - 9:00 _{AM}	Buffet Breakfast - Pre-Function Area		
	General Room		
Session 7 9:00 _{AM} - 10:00 _{AM}	Be Prepared for Measles: Update on Measles and How to Prevent Measles from Spreading in Your Community <i>Dr. Tara Perti, Medical Epidemiologist, Portland Area Indian Health Service</i>		
Session 8 10:00 _{AM} - 11:30 _{AM}	An Introduction to Legal and Administrative Preparedness for Tribal Nations <i>Gregory Sunshine, Senior Analyst for Legal Preparedness, CDC; Nicole Estes, Deputy Associate Director, Program Planning & Development Unit, CDC Office of Readiness and Response, Division of State & Local Readiness</i>		
	General Room	Breakout Room A	Breakout Room B
Session 9 11:40 _{AM} - 12:20 _{PM}	Findings from the 2026 Novel Bird Flu Tabletop Exercise <i>Jessica McKee, Tribal Public Health Programs Administrator, AIHC; Faith Turk, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, AIHC</i>	Emergency Support Function 11: Agriculture and Natural Resources Tribal Brief <i>Evert Sterling, EFS#11 Coordinator, USDA</i>	An Interactive Discussion on Tribal Water Safety Preparedness <i>Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB; Rebecca Washakie, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, NPAIHB</i>
12:20 _{PM} - 1:30 _{PM}	Buffet Lunch - Pre-Function Area		
Session 10 1:30 _{PM} - 3:00 _{PM}	BARNGA <i>Caroline Cruz, Chief Operations Officer, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs</i>	Best Practices for Building Legal and Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination Issues into Exercises <i>Gregory Sunshine, Senior Analyst for Legal Preparedness, CDC; Nicole Estes, Deputy Associate Director, Program Planning & Development Unit, CDC Office of Readiness and Response, Division of State and Local Readiness</i>	1:30 _{PM} - 2:10 _{PM} Who Are You Going to Call and How? <i>Clinton Davis, Emergency Manager, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation</i>
			2:15 _{PM} - 3:00 _{PM} Tribal Communications PACE Planning – from Smoke Signals to Satellites <i>Steve Aberle, COML, Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team</i>



2026 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference



Day 4: Thursday, May 7, 2026 (continued)

3:00 _{PM} - 3:15 _{PM}	Break - Pre-function Area, Snacks Provided		
	Breakout Room A		Breakout Room B
Session 11 3:15 _{PM} - 3:55 _{PM}	Climate Change and Its Impact on the Health of Tribal Communities <i>Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB; Rebecca Washakie, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, NPAIHB</i>		Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 101: Partnering with Tribal Nations in Public Health Emergency Response <i>Amber McPherson, Readiness Manager, WA State Department of Health</i>
	General Room	Breakout Room A	Breakout Room B
Session 12 3:15 _{PM} - 5:30 _{PM}	Washington Tribes Fireside Chat Tribal and State Breakout	Oregon Tribes Fireside Chat Tribal and State Breakout	Idaho Tribes Fireside Chat Tribal and State Breakout

Day 5: Friday, May 8, 2026

8:00 _{AM} -9:00 _{AM}	Buffet Breakfast - Pre-Function Area
	General Room
Session 13 9:00 _{AM} - 10:00 _{AM}	Opioids and Overdose Response <i>Sean Hemmerle, Program Director, WA State Project to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths, WA State Department of Health</i>
10:00 _{AM} -10:20 _{AM}	Break - Pre-Function Area, Snacks Provided <i>(extra time allotted for room check-out)</i>
Session 14 10:20 _{AM} -11:20 _{AM}	A Potential Treatment for Substance Use Disorders: Data on GLP-1 and GIP Combination Drugs for SUD Patients <i>Dr. Frank James, Health Officer, Lummi Nation Paul James, RN, Intern, Lummi Nation</i>
11:20 _{AM} - 11:45 _{AM}	Wrap-Up Session <i>Nicole Smith, Senior Biostatistician, Environmental Public Health, NPAIHB</i> Safe travels home!







Conference Presenters

Steve Aberle received his initial emergency preparedness and response training as a teenager, and this developed into a lifelong passion to help others get ready for emergencies and disasters, especially in ways that enhance one's ability to help their own communities in times of need.

His life journey includes service as a law enforcement first responder, coastal county emergency communications director, mountaineering and Search and Rescue instructor, cybersecurity strategic resilience planner and tactical responder, and data network security engineer and manager.

Now retired, Steve is a Board member and key volunteer with the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team where his activities include writing and maintaining their Disaster Response Plan, coordinating communications which support flight operations, and planning HSEEP-compliant exercises. He has been presenting at tribal emergency conferences since 2014.

Caroline Cruz served as the Health and Human Services General Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs from 2009 to 2024, where she provided strategic leadership, management, and vision for the branch. In this role, she oversaw the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of community members.

Following her tenure in this leadership position, she intentionally supported a smooth transition by mentoring her successor over a two-year period. In 2025, she stepped into the role of Health and Human Services Tribal Liaison, where she focused on grants management and budget oversight, continuing to strengthen the department's operational foundation.

Building on this extensive experience, in April 2026 she accepted the position of Chief Operations Officer for the Confederated Tribes of Warm

Springs, further expanding her impact across the organization.

Throughout her career, Ms. Cruz has served in a wide range of professional roles. She worked for the Department of Human Services, Addictions and Mental Health Branch for over 21 years, holding positions such as Lead Prevention Trainer, Tribal Liaison, Prevention Specialist, Grant Project Officer, Director of the Resource Center, and contributing to the development of statewide diversity training initiatives.

Ms. Cruz also served as a Deputy Sheriff for Santa Clara County, California, and worked in a housing project supporting underserved youth. She brings extensive experience in community prevention, community mobilization, treatment services, training, curriculum development, grant writing, and administration.

Prior to returning home to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Ms. Cruz played a key leadership role as the lead author of Oregon Tribal-Based Practices. She developed a curriculum for certifying prevention specialists—becoming the first Certified Prevention Specialist in the State of Oregon—and has designed and delivered numerous national trainings.





Clinton Davis has over 20 years of emergency management experience at both the volunteer and professional levels. He has served as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and American Red Cross Program Manager, as well as a volunteer firefighter and EMT with Grays Harbor County Fire District 8 for the past 10 years. He is also a member of the Incident Management Team (IMT) for HLSR3, serving Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties, Washington. In addition, he has been a member of Team Rubicon for three years, a Washington State ICS instructor, and a FEMA Tribal instructor supporting local course delivery.

Mr. Davis previously served for six years as Director of EMS Services with RTW, a private ambulance and medical transport agency in Washington. In this role, he oversaw 21 medical vehicles, including eight Department of Health-approved ambulances providing both Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

Since January 2023, Mr. Davis has served as the Emergency Management Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. He is an active member and committee chair of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and Emergency Management Program Committees (EMPCs) in Grays Harbor, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. He also serves as a Board Member and Tribal Liaison (2023–2025) for the Washington State Emergency Managers Association.

His certifications and instructional roles include CPR/First Aid instructor, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Wilderness First Aid instructor trainer, EMS evaluator and instructor, Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) instructor, and CERT/FEMA trainer for more than 15 years. He has also been a licensed amateur (ham) radio operator for 25 years.

Mr. Davis has higher education teaching experience at Louisiana State University, Tennessee State University, and Columbia Southern University.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from California State University, Fullerton (1978), a Bachelor of Science in Business from California Coast University (1998), a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University (2013), and a Master of Public Administration in Emergency Management from Columbia Southern University (2018).

With experience spanning the private and public sectors across business, medicine, and technology, Mr. Davis brings a broad perspective that supports collaboration, consensus-building, and effective public safety outreach.

Nicole Estes has been part of CDC's Office of Readiness and Response since 2007, serving in both the Division of Emergency Operations and the Division of State and Local Readiness. She spent her federal career focused on planning and response across communications, policy, programming, and outreach. She's served her community through 30+ emergency responses, focusing on whole-community planning, partnerships, and outreach.

For several years, she managed CDC's Emergency Communication System rapid dissemination tool for emergency messaging and served as an instructional technologist to help disseminate emergency and non-emergent messages to underserved and vulnerable populations.

CDR Christopher Fish has been the Director of the Division of Environmental Health Services at the Portland Area Indian Health Service since July 2020. He worked at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for 10 years before coming to the Portland Area IHS.

His roles at ANTHC included Air Quality program manager, Environmental Health Consultant, and Construction Safety Program Manager.

He holds an MPH from The George Washington University, is a Certified Industrial Hygienist, and a Registered Environmental Health Specialist.





Brian Fullen is an Environmental Health and Safety Officer with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, where he joined in 2024 and is actively rebuilding and developing the Tribal Environmental Health and Safety program. His work focuses on prevention-based public health protection, early identification of environmental health threats, and strengthening cross-program and cross-jurisdictional coordination.

He brings more than fifteen years of professional experience in residential and commercial environmental health, building science, and safety systems. His background includes assessment of structural integrity, indoor environmental quality, exposure pathways, and environmental risk factors affecting human health. He has also worked extensively in safety consulting, food safety, and restaurant safety oversight, applying regulatory standards and risk management principles across a wide range of settings.

Raised in a rural environment, he brings a practical, field-driven perspective to environmental health, grounded in real-world conditions and informed by scientific principles. His current work emphasizes the role of Environmental Health and Safety as an early warning component of public health emergency preparedness, particularly in identifying hazards that quietly evolve into public health crises.

He is a father of three daughters and a grandfather to five grandchildren, which reinforces his commitment to protecting families, communities, and future generations through proactive environmental health and safety work.

Melino Gianotti is the Emergency Coordinator at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. She serves the Environmental Public Health Program, providing emergency preparedness training and working as an environmental health specialist, conducting safety inspections, CPR training, and food safety training. She is currently a Bloomberg American Health Initiative Environmental Challenges Fellow, receiving her MPH at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Wymon Harry began his career as a support staff member in March 2019 with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Emergency Management Department. In this role, he has supported critical response efforts, including coordinating food and water distribution during emergencies. He currently serves as Office Manager and is being developed as a successor to the Emergency Manager position.

He has completed 35 FEMA Independent Study certificates and has received additional training through Oregon Emergency Management and the Center for Domestic Preparedness.

Sean Hemmerle is the Program Director for the Washington State Project to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). Prior to joining DOH in 2018, he worked and volunteered for various organizations, including the Tacoma Needle Exchange, the Post-Prison Education Program, and the Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project.

Sean obtained his BA in Cultural Anthropology and Social Welfare from The Evergreen State College-Olympia in 2017. Originally from Baltimore, MD, he has resided in WA since 2005.

Amy Hood-Schwindt, a member of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, serves as an Associate with the National Criminal Justice Training Center's AMBER Alert in Indian Country initiative. In this role, she works directly with Tribal Nations to provide training, outreach, and technical assistance aimed at strengthening response efforts for missing and abducted children.

Her work focuses on fostering collaborative relationships among Tribal communities, law enforcement agencies, and State AMBER Alert Coordinators to enhance emergency preparedness and improve child recovery outcomes.

She brings extensive experience in public service, program coordination, and community engagement, and regularly presents at regional and national conferences on issues impacting public safety in Tribal communities.





Frank James, MD, serves as Health Officer for the Lummi Nation, bringing more than 30 years of experience in public health practice and teaching. His work integrates research, education, and patient care, with a strong focus on improving health outcomes in Tribal communities.

Throughout his career, he has contributed to advancing public health through both academic instruction and hands-on clinical practice. He is committed to sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration, and he brings valuable insight to discussions on community health, prevention, and culturally responsive care.

Paul James, RN, is an intern at Lummi Nation. He holds both a Master of Science and a Master of Arts in Anthropology and is ABD in his PhD studies. He is currently a registered nurse pursuing an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) degree and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).

Elyse Kelsey is a Washington Sea Grant Coastal Resilience Fellow working with the Quinault Indian Nation to build community resilience to coastal hazards and gain experience in the field of emergency management.

Prior to starting this role, she earned a master's degree from the University of Washington's School of Marine and Environmental Affairs and a graduate certificate in climate change and health from the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Through the graduate certificate, she started working with the Center for Disaster Resilient Communities to conduct qualitative data analysis to determine how public health information is incorporated into county-level hazard mitigation plans across Washington state.

As an early-career professional, she looks forward to helping develop interdisciplinary, community-engaged solutions to complex environmental challenges arising from climate change.

Brent Lloyd has been a GIS Analyst for the Nez Perce Tribe for 9 years. He supports all tribal departments—including natural resources, law and justice, and health—by providing spatial

research expertise. His specialties include remote sensing and statistical analysis. He holds a PhD from the University of Utah, with a focus on health and farming methods. He is married and has two teenage daughters, with whom he enjoys spending time outdoors.

Denise Markishtum is from Quinault and brings a strong foundation of community values and lived experience to her work. As the youngest of nine siblings and a proud aunt and great-aunt, she developed a deep caregiving spirit early in life.

She spent much of her youth in Taholah, where she gained a deep appreciation for her community, culture, and the natural environment. Learning from elders and engaging in traditional practices instilled in her a strong sense of respect, adaptability, and connection to the land—values that continue to guide her professional path.

She started volunteering as a structure firefighter in 2017. In 2018, she expanded her experience into wildland firefighting, following in the footsteps of family members who also served in this field.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she stepped into the role of Interim Emergency Coordinator, where she quickly developed the skills needed to navigate complex emergency response systems and coordinate across agencies. This experience proved pivotal, highlighting the importance of preparedness and strengthening emergency management systems within Tribal communities.

Today, she is committed to advancing emergency management efforts within the Quinault Indian Nation community, with a focus on building capacity, strengthening systems, and promoting the critical role of preparedness and response.

Danny Martinez is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and a Vietnam veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps from 1971 to 1975. He brings decades of experience in fire service and emergency management, beginning his career as a full-time Firefighter/Medic from 1980 to 1996. He was promoted to Fire Chief in 1996 and served in that role until his retirement in 2014.





Since 2014, he has continued his service as a certified Emergency Manager through FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security.

His educational background includes an Associate of Arts degree in Fire/EMS Urban Interface, an Associate of Arts in Fire Instructor, a Bachelor of Arts in Fire Administration, and an Associate of Arts in Emergency Management.

He holds numerous certifications, including Life Safety Codes, Federal OSHA, Building Inspection, and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) response. He is also a certified Train-the-Trainer instructor for active shooter response courses.

Audrianna Marzette, MS, serves as Tribal Public Health Programs Manager at the National Indian Health Board. She provides technical assistance and systems-level support to Tribal public health programs and health systems nationwide, including working with CDC's Project Firstline to strengthen infection prevention and workforce training. Her work focuses on infectious disease prevention, workforce development, and emergency preparedness. She supports Tribal health departments in improving coordination with Tribal, state, and federal partners while advancing public health approaches grounded in Tribal sovereignty and community priorities.

Jessica McKee, PhD, MPH, is the Tribal Public Health Programs Administrator at the American Indian Health Commission. Before joining the Commission in December 2022, she worked at the Washington State Department of Health in several emergency response roles and was part of the government-to-government effort to ensure Tribes/UIHPs had equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine in Washington.

In her current role, Jessica works to ensure effective government-to-government collaboration in public health and provides technical assistance to Tribes and Urban Indian Health Programs on public health topics, including but not limited to tribal data sovereignty, public health emergency preparedness and response, immunizations, and foundational public health.

Amber McPherson is the Readiness and Recovery Manager with the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Resilience and Health Security. She brings more than a decade of experience in emergency management, public health preparedness, and incident response across multiple levels of government and community sectors including Tribal, State, and County government, aviation emergency management, and nonprofit organizations, giving her a broad perspective on how complex systems coordinate during crises.

Throughout her career, Amber has supported incident response and recovery operations across a range of emergencies, including a mass casualty incident, large-scale public health emergency, repatriation missions, and natural disaster response and recovery efforts. Her work has involved coordinating multi-agency partners, supporting emergency operations centers, and helping ensure communities are prepared for and receive critical services after disasters. In her current role, Amber leads statewide initiatives focused on preparedness, recovery, planning, training, exercise, and continuous improvement. She works closely with public health agencies, emergency management partners, healthcare systems, and community organizations to strengthen readiness and build resilient communities capable of responding to and recovering from emerging threats and disasters.

Tara Perti, MD, is an Infectious Diseases physician who serves as the Medical Epidemiologist for the Portland Area IHS. She is originally from Seattle, attended medical school at the University of Washington, then completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, followed by an Infectious Diseases Fellowship and an MPH in Epidemiology at the University of Washington.

She subsequently served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the CDC, assigned to the VA Office of Public Health Surveillance and Research based in California. Before moving back to the Northwest, she worked in Public Health for 6 years in California, including as an Assistant Health Officer and Tuberculosis Controller for Santa Clara County in the Bay Area, where she assisted with the public health response for measles cases in the County.



Penny Rarick serves as the Tribal Liaison for the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, building strong partnerships between the state and Tribal governments to advance traffic safety across Washington. She leads initiatives that reduce roadway harm through prevention, training, cross-sector collaboration, and community-driven strategies that support the state's goal of zero traffic deaths.

Working alongside Tribal leaders, Tribal Law Enforcement, and community partners, Penny collaborates on initiatives rooted in Indigenous Knowledge, blending evidence-based practices with culturally grounded approaches that honor Tribal sovereignty and elevate Indigenous expertise. Her approach is guided by listening and learning from each Tribal Nation, ensuring strategies reflect their unique priorities, culture, and strengths.

Penny also participates in statewide committees and advisory groups, engaging with Tribal leaders, transportation professionals, public health practitioners, and safety partners to share knowledge, coordinate efforts, and advance solutions that reflect community priorities and context.

Her work centers on partnerships that elevate Tribal knowledge and expertise in traffic safety. By listening, learning, and collaborating closely with Tribal leaders and communities, these efforts are culturally informed, community-driven, and focused on reducing roadway harm. Together, these partnerships aim to create safer roads and safer drivers while respecting the values, priorities, and approaches of each Tribal Nation—moving Washington closer to a future where traffic fatalities are no longer part of the journey.

Daniel Ravenel has been the Emergency Management Manager for the Quinault Indian Nation since 2022, following COVID. Before that, Daniel worked as a biologist and Environmental Protection Manager for the Nation for 10 years. Daniel served in the US Military for 12 years and in the USCG as a boarding officer, conducting federal law enforcement operations. Daniel lives in Hoquiam, WA, with his wife, 2 kids, and about 45 animals, including his favorite, the type of dog they used for dire wolves in Game of Thrones.

Larry Robinette serves as the Tribal Liaison for the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, where he supports government-to-government engagement, consumer protection outreach, and disaster recovery coordination with Tribal Nations across Washington State. In this role, he works closely with Tribal governments, state agencies, and community partners to strengthen preparedness, improve access to insurance resources, and support recovery following wildfires, flooding, and other emergencies.

Larry brings extensive firsthand experience in long-term disaster recovery, including key involvement in wildfire recovery efforts with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation following the Okanogan Complex and North Star Fires. His work during these events focused on recovery coordination, financial navigation, community stabilization, and bridging partnerships between Tribal programs and external resources.

Throughout his career, Larry has supported Tribal communities in risk management, recovery planning, and resilience-building, with a focus on practical solutions that respect Tribal sovereignty and local needs. His approach emphasizes real-world application, collaboration, and strengthening systems that support communities beyond immediate disaster response.

Larry is committed to advancing culturally informed preparedness strategies and helping communities build long-term recovery structures that promote health, stability, and resilience.

Kjell Schiöberg, AqP, AVPHI, serves on staff at Marimn Health, the healthcare system of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho, where he works in environmental health and emergency preparedness. His work focuses on strengthening Tribal health and safety through climate-preparedness planning, environmental monitoring, and emergency-response coordination. He has supported initiatives including climate vulnerability assessments, emergency preparedness exercises, and the integration of environmental health considerations into Tribal emergency operations planning.

In addition to his work in Tribal health systems, he is an active member of the Worley Fire Department and holds multiple certifications in emergency medical response and public safety training.





His work bridges environmental health, emergency response, and workforce preparedness to strengthen community resilience in Tribal communities.

Ryan Sealy is the Environmental Public Health Director with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, where she works alongside tribal nations across the Pacific Northwest to strengthen environmental public health systems and build responsive, tribally driven solutions. Her work spans a wide range of priorities, including food safety training and food code development, well water quality and testing, and collaborative planning to identify and address environmental hazards through solution-based approaches. Ryan also supports tribal partners in integrating traditional ecological knowledge into environmental health programs and addressing climate impacts on community health.

Her approach is grounded in relationship building and practical support, helping communities design and implement programs that reflect their values, priorities, and long-term goals for health and sovereignty.

Tia Skerbeck is a Tribal Councilmember for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. She holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington, a Master's Certificate in Health Law from the University of Arizona, and dual Bachelor's degrees in Community Health and Communication from Western Washington University.

With twenty-one years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army Reserves as an Environmental Health Officer and Preventive Medicine Specialist, she brings deep experience in health protection and emergency preparedness. She most recently served as the Public Health Officer for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, continuing her commitment to advancing the health and well-being of her community.

Everet Sterling is an Emergency Management Specialist with 25 years of experience in the field. Currently serving with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), He specializes in preparedness planning and coordination of USDA resources in support of FEMA response activities. He works closely with Federal, State, Tribal, and Local

Emergency Management, Public Health, and Continuity professionals to ensure agriculture, animals, and natural resources are integrated into all phases of emergency management, contributing to effective response, recovery, and long-term resilience.

He holds a master's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management from Trident University International and has developed a strong background in emergency planning, EOC operations, continuity of operations, and exercise development. He is passionate about agricultural and natural resource emergency management, public health preparedness, Access and Functional Needs planning, and emergency training and exercise programs. He recently participated in the 2025 Northwest Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Outside of his primary role, He is committed to building strong relationships with Tribal Emergency Management, Public Health, and Continuity professionals and enjoys collaborating with peers to advance community preparedness and resilience.

Gregory Sunshine, JD, serves as the lead for legal preparedness and response for the CDC Public Health Law Program. Gregory provides capacity-building assistance; identifies legal preparedness priorities and best practices; develops and hosts legal preparedness training, workshops, and presentations; and shares his subject-matter expertise to support emergency preparedness and response activities.

Faith Turk is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and has a BA in Anthropology and Global Health. She has served as the Environmental Public Health Coordinator at the American Indian Health Commission for 2.5 years. In that time, she has aided the Commission's work on a number of projects across the public health sectors. She has organized and facilitated the Maternal and Infant Health and Immunizations quarterly meetings, as well as the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) monthly and Public Health bi-weekly meetings. She aided Kauffman and Associates (KAI) in gathering feedback from tribal representatives and leaders for their 2024-2025 Tribal FPHS Steering Committee Report and in presenting their findings.

(continued on page 14)





(continued from page 13)

She has attended and presented at several public health conferences and tabled and distributed resources using our COVID-19 education grant at a number of Tribal Health fairs. She has also helped develop the model Tribal temporary food establishment guide.

Before she worked at the commission, she was a research assistant at Urbane, a research study focused on learning more about urban Native elders' brain health and the relationship between how vascular brain injuries like strokes may contribute to increased risk of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

Rebecca J. Washakie is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall, Idaho, and currently serves as the Environmental Public Health Coordinator with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. With more than 30 years of experience in the public health sector, she has had the honor of working closely with tribal governments and communities.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from Idaho State University. Outside of professional responsibilities, she enjoys outdoor activities, road trips, and spending time with her six grandchildren. She considers it a privilege to serve Indigenous populations and communities and is deeply committed to sharing knowledge and culture.

Jessical Wilkinson serves as the Medical Logistics Supervisor for the Office of Emergency Medical Logistics within the Executive Office of Resiliency & Health Security at the Washington State Department of Health. With more than six years of emergency management leadership experience, she came to public health through private-sector supply chain management and shipping, bringing real world logistics experience and operational discipline into emergency response work.

She oversees the Washington State Emergency Medical Logistics Center, where she leads complex medical logistics operations and supports public health responses across the state. Her work has

included coordinating complex incident responses, managing high-consequence supply chain disruptions, and ensuring critical medical supplies reach partners during emergencies.

A key part of Ms. Wilkinson's role is to build and strengthen partnerships with Tribal partners, state agencies, local health jurisdictions, healthcare systems, and response partners to improve coordination before, during, and after incidents. She is known for staying steady under high pressure and focusing on practical solutions that support frontline public health needs.

In addition to her state role, Ms. Wilkinson volunteers with Team Rubicon Disaster Response, reflecting her continued commitment to service, collaboration, and community resilience.

Brian Wadsworth is a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. He serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Native Public Media (NPM). With NPM, He has devoted his time to advocating for the Federal Communications Commission's Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code. This new tool could aid in the recovery of missing people.

He has extensive financial management, auditing, and accounting experience, spanning Tribal and State Governments and the private sector. Previously, he served in the Governor's Finance Office of the State of Nevada as an Executive Branch Audit Manager, where he led performance audits of Executive Branch agencies.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and a Master of Business Administration in American Indian Entrepreneurship from Gonzaga University.

He is heavily involved with his community. He has the honor of serving as the Chairman of the Sacred Visions Pow Wow Committee and Vice President of the UNR Native American Alumni Chapter. In 2025, he was honored to receive the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's prestigious "40 Under 40" award. This award recognizes Native Americans for outstanding leadership and community contributions.



Session Descriptions

Session 1

Lessons Learned from the Unexpected: An All-Hazards Approach

Daniel Ravenel, Emergency Management Manager, Quinault Indian Nation
Elyse Kelsey, WA Sea Grant Fellowship; Quinault Indian Nation
Desiree Markishtum, Emergency Coordinator, Quinault Indian Nation

Management staff will present on the hazards they face as a rural coastal community and how they plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from these hazards, even when they're not expected. They will go over how the changing climate and sea-level rise have affected the community and how the community has responded. During the presentation, they will focus on lessons learned from responses to Search and Rescue (air, ground, and water), mass-casualty events (collapse of a water tower), and emergencies involving multiple agencies (fire + SAR). Highlights will include the importance of training and exercise, staffing plans, building relationships, and the development of a comprehensive, flexible response framework.



Session 2

The Unseen Emergency: Environmental Health Threats That Become Public Health Crises

Brian Fullen, EHS Officer, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Public health emergencies in tribal communities often do not begin with sirens, emergency declarations, or hospital data. Many start quietly through unsafe housing, contaminated drinking water, fire-damaged structures, environmental degradation, or chemical exposure in homes, RVs, and encampments. By the time these conditions are recognized as emergencies, exposure has often already occurred.

This session reframes Tribal Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) work as a critical early warning component of public health emergency preparedness. Drawing on anonymized real-world case examples, the presenter will demonstrate how environmental health indicators often surface long before clinical impacts are detected, and how delayed recognition can increase risk to families, responders, and treaty-protected resources. Participants will explore environmental health scenarios that are increasingly common across the Northwest, including unsafe and uninhabitable housing, drug-contaminated living environments, fire-damaged structures, debris and waste accumulation, and sites located near waterways or culturally significant areas. The session will highlight how Tribal EHS programs identify emerging threats, intervene early, and coordinate with public health, housing, behavioral health, emergency management, and law enforcement partners to prevent escalation.

Emphasis will be placed on practical lessons learned, prioritization strategies, partnership development, responder safety, and gaps in preparedness planning. The session is intentionally discussion-forward, with significant time reserved for participant questions and shared problem-solving, recognizing that many communities are facing similar challenges with limited resources.



Session 3.1 / 4.1

Part One: Preventing Foodborne Outbreaks at Temporary Events

Tia Skerbeck, Councilwoman, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

Ryan Sealy, Environmental Public Health Director, NPAIHB

Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB

Faith Turk, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, AIHC

Large cultural gatherings and temporary events, such as Canoe Journeys, present unique food safety challenges due to temporary food vendors, limited infrastructure, and high visitor volume. To support safe food service while honoring culturally significant events, the American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe collaborated to develop a model temporary food code designed to guide food safety practices at tribal gatherings and other temporary events.

This presentation describes the process used to develop the model temporary food code and accompanying vendor resources, including adaptable guidance tailored to the needs of individual events. During the 2025 Canoe Journey hosted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB) supported implementation of the model code by providing on-site technical assistance and working directly with food vendors to reinforce food safety practices.

Lessons learned from planning and implementation will be shared, including strategies for vendor preparation, communication, resource coordination, and volunteer support. Key takeaways highlight the importance of flexibility, collaboration, and maintaining core food safety practices to help prevent foodborne illness outbreaks during large cultural gatherings.

Part Two: Coordination and Communication During Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

CDR Christopher Fish, Director, Division of Environmental Health Services, Indian Health Service

Foodborne illnesses are a persistent and preventable public health challenge in the United States. The CDC estimates that approximately 9.9 million illnesses attributable to the 7 most common foodborne pathogens occur annually, resulting in 53,300 hospitalizations and 931 deaths.

In the Pacific Northwest, public health agencies respond to approximately 60–100 or more reported foodborne outbreaks each year. These events range from localized clusters associated with retail food establishments to regional outbreaks linked to widely distributed commercial products. Rapid detection, coordinated investigation, and effective communication are essential to prevent illnesses and maintain public trust.

Tribal communities face unique considerations in foodborne illness surveillance and response, including jurisdictional complexity, geographic remoteness, limited laboratory access, and the need for culturally appropriate risk communication. Foodborne illness complaints, which can be a signal of an outbreak, are crucial in public health response. Responding effectively to foodborne illnesses relies on relationships that foster timely information sharing among reporting jurisdictions with Tribal health departments, Indian Health Service (IHS), federal partners, environmental health programs, and food regulatory authorities.

This roundtable will focus on strengthening coordination and communication processes during foodborne illness outbreak investigations and complaint response. Participants will explore: best practices for intake and evaluation of foodborne illness complaints; interjurisdictional coordination between Tribal, state, local, and federal partners; laboratory coordination and data sharing; environmental health and epidemiology collaboration during investigations; risk communication strategies tailored to Tribal



communities & after-action review processes to improve future response.

Through facilitated discussion and shared experiences, the session will highlight practical strategies to enhance outbreak response capacity, clarify communication pathways, and support Tribal sovereignty while ensuring effective public health action. The goal is to promote resilient, collaborative systems that reduce illness burden and protect community health during foodborne disease events.

Session 3.2

Applying High-Resolution LiDAR in Emergency Management for the Nez Perce Tribe

Brent Lloyd, GIS Analyst, Nez Perce Tribe

In disaster management, LiDAR has helped with precise mapping and monitoring. The Nez Perce Tribe, along with other government agencies monitoring tribal land, has used LiDAR data to map flood areas and identify potential flood zones that affect the natural terrain, agricultural land, civil infrastructure, and people's livelihoods. A few of the outputs from the LiDAR data are 3D terrain models, tree heights and counts, and infrastructure identification. LiDAR in fire management with the Nez Perce Tribe has enabled understanding of fuel loads, risk mitigation, and post-fire assessments.

Session 3.3

Strengthening Tribal Emergency Response: AMBER Alert Implementation in Indian Country

Amy Hood-Schwindt, Associate, NCJTC at Fox Valley Technical College

The implementation of effective emergency response systems is critical to protecting children and strengthening community safety in Tribal Nations. The Ashlynn Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2018 was enacted to address gaps in emergency alerting systems that previously limited Tribal participation in AMBER Alert activations. The Act amended the PROTECT Act, allowing federally recognized Tribes and states to receive support for developing and integrating AMBER Alert communication plans.

This presentation will explore how the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program, through the AMBER Alert in Indian Country (AIIIC) initiative, assists Tribal communities in strengthening their emergency response capabilities for cases involving missing or abducted children. AIIIC works directly with Tribal Nations to provide training, technical assistance, and guidance on integrating Tribal alerting procedures with state and regional AMBER Alert systems.

Participants will gain insight into how coordinated planning between Tribal governments, law enforcement agencies, and State AMBER Alert Coordinators enhances cross-jurisdictional response and improves the likelihood of safely recovering missing children. The session will also highlight ongoing outreach efforts to ensure that all federally recognized Tribes have access to these resources and to collaborative partnerships.

By strengthening communication systems, improving coordination, and increasing public awareness, AMBER Alert in Indian Country supports Tribal communities in building stronger emergency preparedness and response frameworks to protect vulnerable children.

Session 4.2

Bridging the Gap: Connecting Communities to Critical Resources During Emergencies

Jessica Wilkinson, Medical Logistics Supervisor, Washington State Department of Health

During emergencies, timely access to medical supplies and equipment can significantly improve community response and health outcomes. The Washington State Department of Health's Medical Logistics Center (MLC) serves as a statewide resource hub that maintains and deploys critical medical supplies, durable medical equipment, and personal protective equipment to support partners during public health incidents and disasters. Tribal communities play a vital role in Washington's emergency preparedness landscape and understanding how to access these resources can strengthen community resilience and response capability.

(continued on page 18)



(continued from page 17)

This session will provide an overview of the MLC and the types of resources available to support tribal public health and emergency preparedness efforts. Participants will learn about key categories of support, including durable medical equipment, personal protective equipment, medical countermeasure distribution, and other response resources that may be available during incidents such as wildfires, smoke events, infectious disease outbreaks, or other public health emergencies.

The presentation will also walk through the process for requesting resources, including coordination pathways, situational considerations, and how tribal partners can integrate resource requests into existing emergency management and public health response structures. Real-world examples will highlight how these resources have been used to support community response and continuity of care.

By the end of the session, participants will have a clearer understanding of what support may be available through the MLC, how to request resources during an incident, and how to strengthen coordination with state partners to ensure timely access to critical medical supplies when communities need them most.

Session 4.3

The Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) Alert: A National Indigenous-Led Solution to Protect Our People

*Brian Wadsworth, Chief Operating Officer,
Native Public Media*

The Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP) Alert is a groundbreaking, Indigenous-led initiative designed to close critical gaps in how our nation responds to missing persons cases, particularly those involving Indigenous people, youth labeled as “runaways,” and vulnerable adults. The MEP Alert is part of the federal emergency alert system, the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). Also housed within IPAWS are the AMBER Alert and other life-saving emergency alerts. The MEP Alert is a new tool that could be used to recover missing persons who do not fit the criteria of the AMBER Alert. However,

only FEMA-authorized Alerting Authorities can issue emergency alerts through IPAWS. Any federal, state, or local government, or federally recognized Tribe or territory, can become an Alerting Authority.

Rooted in the values of community responsibility, collective safety, and kinship, the MEP Alert exemplifies Native innovation that shapes national policy and strengthens public safety across Tribal, state, and federal systems. Developed through years of Tribal advocacy and collaboration, the MEP Alert empowers Tribal Nations to become Alerting Authorities, placing decision-making and rapid response in the hands of local communities. The MEP Alert honors the principle that every life is sacred. Native Public Media (NPM) will share lessons from the development and implementation of the MEP Alert, and information on how federally recognized Tribes can become Alerting Authorities. NPM will also share its recommended criteria, developed by a working group of law enforcement, MMIP advocates, and AMBER Alert experts, for Alerting Authorities to implement MEP Alert.

Session 5.1

Active Shooters Training: How to Barricade and Secure Your Doors & Windows & Plan Your Escape Route

*Dan Martinez, Emergency Manager,
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*

*Wymon Harry, Asst Emergency Manager,
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*

As a Train-the-Trainer Instructor through the ALICE training courses, I now teach Active Shooter classes. I have taught well over 10 courses in Indian Country and with non-profit organizations. My experience protecting International Embassies during the Vietnam War was to secure, barricade, and protect our Ambassador and American citizens, and follow Military personnel. Our objective is to teach hand-over-hand how to secure doors and windows, and what to do in the event of an active shooter. These skills can save your life and protect others, as we learn what to do during an active shooter event.





Session 5.2

Financial Resilience in Disaster Recovery: Insurance, Sovereignty, and Community Protection

Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison, WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Disaster recovery is not only physical—it is financial. Drawing from wildfire recovery experience with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation following the Okanogan Complex and North Star Fires, this session explores the critical role financial systems play in long-term recovery..

Wildfire recovery revealed how insurance navigation, claims processing, mitigation planning, and consumer protections significantly impact how quickly households and communities stabilize.

Participants will examine how financial preparedness intersects with public health and emergency management, including:

- Insurance coverage gaps revealed during wildfire recovery
- Coordination between Tribal governments and state agencies
- Fraud prevention and consumer protection
- Long-term financial recovery planning

The session will also reference recent deployments supporting flood and wildfire recovery efforts across Washington State to illustrate how insurance systems function during active disaster response and extended recovery phases. This presentation is designed to increase understanding of financial resilience as a core component of Tribal emergency preparedness and recovery planning.

Key takeaway: Financial resilience is foundational to recovery. When Tribal communities understand and engage in insurance and risk systems proactively, recovery is faster, more equitable, and more sustainable.

Session 5.3

Saving Lives on Tribal Roads: Community-Driven Traffic Safety Solutions in Tribal Communities

Penny Rarick, Tribal Liaison, Washington Traffic Safety Commission

Traffic crashes are a leading and preventable cause of death in many Tribal communities, making roadway safety an urgent public health and community wellbeing issue. This session explores factors contributing to traffic fatalities among Native people while highlighting Tribal led approaches that strengthen prevention, safety, and community resilience.

In Washington, although Native people represent about two percent of the population, they account for roughly one in twenty traffic fatalities. Fatality rates among Native people are consistently three to five times higher than the statewide average, with crashes occurring both on and off Tribal lands. Since 2014, more than 300 Native people have lost their lives in traffic crashes in Washington, and more than one-quarter were under the age of 25.

Young driver safety represents a critical opportunity for prevention. Washington research shows young drivers without driver education experience significantly higher crash involvement, including 67 percent more crashes among drivers ages 18 to 20, and 60 percent more crashes among drivers ages 21 to 24. Limited access to driver education in rural and Tribal communities can create barriers that disproportionately affect Tribal youth.

Native women are also increasingly impacted. While women account for about 30 percent of traffic fatalities statewide, Native women represent nearly half of Native traffic fatalities and nearly half of Native driver fatalities in Washington. Many of these crashes involve multiple high-risk driving behaviors, including low seat belt use and roadway departure crashes on rural roads. These patterns highlight emerging safety concerns and the need for prevention strategies that better support safer travel for women across communities.

This presentation will highlight Tribal partnerships with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, including Tribal Traffic Safety Coordinators and community-driven strategies rooted in Indigenous knowledge and Tribal priorities. Participants will gain insight into emerging approaches and how Tribal leadership is helping shift traffic safety from a reactive system to a proactive public health approach that supports safer roads and healthier Tribal communities.





Session 6.1

When You Need a Little Help from Above - General Aviation to the Rescue

Steve Aberle, COML, Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team

Suddenly, a disaster or large emergency strikes your Tribe! Normal travel and supply routes are impassable. In emergency management parlance, your Tribe is now living on an island, or perhaps on multiple separated islands. However:

- ⇒ Some Tribal members need shelter.
- ⇒ Medical supplies need replenishment.
- ⇒ Everyone is short of food after the shelves in stores, and food banks are quickly emptied.

Yes, federal help may eventually arrive, but how can local disaster needs be met until those supplies become available? In the interim, what if the needed food, temporary shelters, and urgent medical supplies could be flown to you by a fleet of general aviation volunteers?

This presentation introduces the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART, www.odart.org), a 501(c)(3) with capabilities to operate small aircraft, float planes, helicopters, and drones to provide tribal communities with emergency and disaster assistance. Also included is information on how to request assistance from ODART, especially in times when commercial communications have failed or are overloaded.

Founded in 2022, ODART holds annual full-scale exercises to practice for the inevitable. To date, during its exercises, ODART has flown fresh, non-perishable, dehydrated, and freeze-dried food and bottled water to four tribes on the Oregon coast, one tribe on the Washington coast, two tribes on the California coast, four tribes in the I-5 corridor, and two tribes in the US-97 corridor.

Session 6.2

Long-Term Recovery Strategies: Building Tribal Resilience After Wildfire & Disaster

Larry Robinette, Tribal Liaison, WA Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Disaster response is immediate. Recovery is long-term.

This session explores the structure and purpose of Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) through firsthand accounts of wildfire recovery with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation following the Okanogan Complex and North Star Fires. These fires illustrate how recovery extends far beyond containment, requiring sustained coordination, housing solutions, infrastructure repair, financial navigation, and community stabilization over multiple years.

Participants will examine how recovery efforts evolved after large-scale wildfire events, including the challenges of coordinating Tribal programs, state agencies, nonprofit partners, and community resources. The session will also connect lessons from more recent disasters, including flooding and wildfire events across Washington, to demonstrate how recovery systems can be strengthened before the next emergency occurs.

Through case discussion and practical examples, attendees will gain tools to help structure long-term recovery planning within their own Tribal communities.

Key Takeaway:

Long-term recovery is not a phase—it is a system. Tribal communities benefit from structured, sustained coordination that carries recovery beyond the initial disaster response.





Session 6.3

Enhancing Workforce Preparedness and Collaboration for Climate-Related Emergency Response in Tribal Communities

Audrianna Marzette, Program Manager, National Indian Health Board

Kjell Schioberg, Climate Ready Tribe Project Lead, Marimn Health

Climate change is creating new public health emergencies for Tribal communities, from wildfire smoke to harmful algae blooms. At the same time, Tribal health programs must coordinate with Tribal, state, and federal emergency response systems. Strengthening workforce readiness and communication systems is essential for responding effectively while respecting Native traditions and Tribal sovereignty.

In this session, we will share practical approaches that Tribal health programs are using to strengthen emergency preparedness. Presenters will highlight examples from Tribal health projects, including climate vulnerability assessments, updates to Emergency Operations Plans, improved emergency communication systems, and tabletop preparedness exercises focused on climate-related health risks.

The session will also discuss emerging environmental health concerns linked to climate change. For example, Tribal environmental monitoring of Coeur d'Alene Lake has shown that rising water temperatures increase the risk of harmful blue-green algae blooms and threaten native fish species. These changes can affect Tribal health, food systems, and environmental protection.

Participants will take part in a guided scenario that explores how a harmful algae bloom could impact a Tribal community. During this discussion, attendees will discuss the challenges of working together and ways to improve communication among Tribal health programs, emergency management partners, and community organizations.

By the end of the session, participants will discover useful strategies for Tribal health systems to improve workforce readiness, incorporate climate factors into preparedness planning, and build

response systems that align with Tribal priorities and governance.

Session 7

Be Prepared for Measles: Update on Measles and How to Prevent Measles from Spreading in Your Community

Dr. Tara Perti, Medical Epidemiologist, Portland Area IHS

The resurgence of measles in the United States, which began in January of 2025 and has resulted in more cases than any year since 1991, has continued. We have continued to see outbreaks affecting most states in the country, occurring when cases of measles are introduced into under-vaccinated communities.

At the beginning of 2026, there were more cases per week than during most of the preceding year, with the largest driven by a very large outbreak occurring in South Carolina, followed by Utah. In the Portland Area, there have been measles outbreaks in all three states, with nearly twice as many more cases in the first three months of 2026 than in all of 2025.

To protect communities, ensuring high measles vaccination coverage ($\geq 95\%$), implementing infection prevention recommendations, and responding promptly to suspected measles cases can prevent sustained transmission. We will review infection prevention recommendations, public health interventions, and resources available to help Tribes respond if a case of measles is identified in the community.





Session 8

An Introduction to Legal and Administrative Preparedness for Tribal Nations

Gregory Sunshine, Senior Analyst for Legal Preparedness, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Nicole Estes, Deputy Associate Director, Program Planning & Development Unit, CDC/Office of Readiness and Response/Division of State & Local Readiness

Navigating legal and administrative systems is a core element of response readiness, and yet health departments' training on laws and policies is among the greatest workforce development needs. This session will provide an overview of public health laws and legal authorities for response, and an overview of the ways in which tribal nations can utilize jurisdiction-specific strategies to recognize and address legal and administrative issues when emergencies threaten their communities and critical infrastructure.

Session 9.1

Findings from the 2026 Novel Bird Flu Tabletop Exercise

Jessica McKee, Tribal Public Health Programs Administrator, AIHC;

Faith Turk, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, AIHC

This presentation will provide an overview of the 2026 Novel Bird Flu Tabletop Exercise series, including the strengths and gaps identified and next steps to ensure our state is prepared for a novel bird flu outbreak.

Session 9.2

Emergency Support Function 11: Agriculture and Natural Resources Tribal Brief

Evert Sterling, EFS#11 Coordinator, USDA

This session will provide an overview of Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources, including its mission, role, and coordinator responsibilities during preparedness and response. The discussion will include how and why ESF #11 works directly with Tribes to support their emergency management efforts.

We will review how ESF #11 is structured and outline the agencies that support ESF #11 and their capabilities. The session will explain how these resources can help participants achieve their mission objectives during emergencies. Whether it's integrating agriculture and natural resources into planning or coordinating support during disaster operations, attendees will gain insight into how ESF #11 collaborates with federal, state, tribal, and local partners to strengthen overall preparedness and recovery efforts.

By the end of the session, participants will have an overview of ESF #11's responsibilities and understand how its coordination and resources can directly support their mission before, during, and after disasters. Note: This topic is relevant to the conference due to the One-Health consideration

Session 9.3

An Interactive Discussion on Tribal Water Safety Preparedness

Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB

Rebecca Washakie, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, NPAIHB

Canoe Journey, tribal fishing, and water-based activities in the Northwest occur amid changing environmental conditions, including cold-water exposure, weather variability, and poor air quality. These conditions pose real but preventable risks that require prevention strategies informed by both environmental data and lived experience. American Indian and Alaska Native people experience disproportionately high rates of water-related injury and fatality, highlighting the importance of access to resources and relevant training. Prioritizing approaches developed with and tribal communities that are relevant to specific environmental contexts is essential.

Participants will learn about the tribal water safety resources that the NPAIHB Environmental Public Health Program is providing and what we hope to build in the future. We will then do an interactive activity to share and learn from each other. When are you most likely to be on the water? What safety precautions do you take? What resources would you like to see in your community? Let's talk about it.



Session 10.1

BARNGA

Caroline Cruz, Chief Operations Officer, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Participants will participate in an experiential activity called BARNGA. This is a simulation game on cultural clashes. It induces the shock of realizing that in spite of many similarities people from other cultures have differences in the way we do things. They must understand and reconcile these differences to function effectively in a cross-cultural group.

Session 10.2

Best Practices for Building Legal and Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination Issues into Exercises

Gregory Sunshine, Senior Analyst for Legal Preparedness, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Nicole Estes, Deputy Associate Director, Program Planning & Development Unit, CDC/Office of Readiness and Response/Division of State & Local Readiness

Effective navigation of legal and administrative systems requires practice. This session will introduce attendees to common legal and cross-jurisdictional coordination issues and provide hands-on training on creating exercise scenarios that allow them to explore these challenges and develop systems and policies for efficient response.

Session 10.3a

Who are you going to call and how?

Clinton Davis, Emergency Manager, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Established a PACE plan (Primary, Alternate, Contingency, Emergency) for communication and focus on having the "E" component, such as Sat phones and preferably a SHARES HF Ham Radio set up as outlined by the WA State Mil

Department and State EMD. We will walk you through how to plan for, buy, and set up a SHARES system, and use it to communicate with local EOCs, state and federal agencies, and Tribes that have the ability. It costs less than you think and does not require specialized certification and training. A must-have to keep you communicating in an emergency.

Session 10.3b

Tribal Communications PACE Planning – from Smoke Signals to Satellites

Steve Aberle, COML, Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team

“PACE” is an acronym for Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency, and this methodology can be applied to response planning under all Emergency Support Functions, not just communications. It is essentially a triple-redundant plan for handling system degradation. Is triple redundancy enough? What options are available that can be plugged into the PACE plan for your tribe?

During emergency/disaster incidents, some things will work and others will not, but survival may depend on how well you’ve planned for working around potential infrastructure systemic failures.

This presentation examines communications options both historically and today, and it will enumerate the pros and cons of many options you might want to review the Communications PACE Plan developed by the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART, <https://www.odart.org>), which includes many options at each PACE level, including considering the Communications PACE Plan developed by the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART, <https://www.odart.org>), which includes many options at each PACE level, including considerations for your plan. We will also look at the Communications PACE Plan developed by the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART, <https://www.odart.org>), which includes many different options at each PACE level, and, as one might expect, aviation communications options.





Session 11.1

Climate Change and Its Impact on the Health of Tribal Communities

Melino Gianotti, Emergency Coordinator, NPAIHB

Rebecca Washakie, Environmental Public Health Coordinator, NPAIHB

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is something communities are experiencing right now. Rising temperatures, wildfires, drought, flooding, and severe storms pose real risks to human health and safety. These events can affect air and water quality, increase injuries and illness, and place greater pressure on medical services, public health systems, and emergency response. Tribal communities can face additional challenges due to geographic isolation, limited resources, and the need to protect cultural resources, traditional foods, and their way of life.

This session will explore the connections among climate change, severe weather, and public health in simple, practical terms. Presenters will provide a short overview of how climate-related events, such as heat waves, poor air quality, flooding, and infrastructure disruptions, can impact community health and emergency response systems. The session will also highlight the NPAIHB Environmental Public Health Division services and goals, and how the division can assist the concerns and needs of the Northwest Tribes and communities.

Participants will learn how environmental health professionals can help connect emergency management, public health programs, and community leadership to strengthen disaster preparedness. Examples of practical strategies, planning tools, and partnerships that support tribal and local preparedness will be shared.

The presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion where participants are invited to share their experiences, community concerns, and priorities related to climate change, disaster planning, and public health. Through conversation and networking, participants can learn from one another and identify shared challenges and solutions. The goal of this session is to strengthen collaboration and better understand how the

NPAIHB Environmental Public Health Division can support tribal communities now and into the future.

Session 11.2

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 101: Partnering with Tribal Nations in Public Health Emergency Response

Amber McPherson, Readiness Manager, Washington Department of Health

Public health emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks, environmental health incidents, and natural disasters, require strong coordination across Tribal, state, and federal partners. Tribal Nations play a critical role in protecting the health and safety of their communities and bring unique expertise, leadership, and cultural perspectives to emergency preparedness and response efforts.

This session provides a foundational overview of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and explores how Tribal Nations can engage with state public health partners in preparedness planning, response coordination, and information sharing. Participants will gain an understanding of how public health emergency systems operate, how preparedness funding supports statewide capabilities, and where opportunities exist for collaboration while respecting Tribal sovereignty and decision-making authority.

The session will highlight practical examples of coordination between Tribal and state public health partners, including preparedness planning, surveillance coordination, and emergency response structures. Participants will explore approaches to strengthen partnerships, improve situational awareness, and support Tribal-led response efforts.

Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of the preparedness landscape and strategies to enhance collaboration between Tribal communities and public health partners before, during, and after emergencies.



Session 12

Tribal / State Breakout Sessions & Fireside Chat Oregon & Washington

The Tribal / State Breakout Sessions & Fireside chats bring together tribal and state leaders for an informal, leader-to-leader discussion on public health emergency preparedness and response. They provide a dedicated space to explore shared challenges, priorities, and opportunities for collaboration across jurisdictions.

These sessions will begin as tribal-led conversations, giving tribal representatives the opportunity to discuss among themselves and identify key priorities. State partners will be invited to join at a time determined by tribal participants, either at the outset or later in the session, ensuring that the dialogue remains grounded in tribal leadership and perspectives.

Participants will engage in meaningful dialogue to strengthen coordination, enhance communication, and sustain effective response planning between tribal nations and state agencies. Emphasizing the importance of partnership, this session highlights the critical role of state leadership in supporting preparedness efforts that are responsive to the needs and priorities of tribal communities.

These interactive listening sessions are designed to foster mutual understanding, elevate key issues, and support continued progress toward coordinated and resilient public health emergency response systems.

Washington

Dennis Worsham, Secretary of Health, Washington
State & Tribal Liaisons

Oregon

Naomi Adeline-Biggs, Public Health Director
Sejal Hathi, Director of Oregon Health Authority
Julie Johnson, Tribal Affairs Director, OHA
Carey Palm, Preparedness Tribal Liaison, OHA

Tribal / State Breakout Sessions & Fireside Chat Idaho

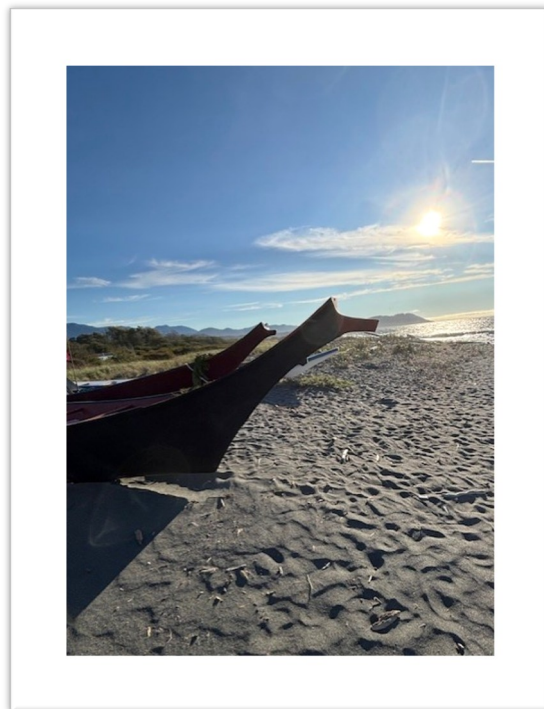
The Idaho discussion will focus on identifying connections with the appropriate people in the Idaho State government.

Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how environmental health functions as prevention-based emergency preparedness, and how earlier, coordinated engagement can reduce harm and strengthen public health response across jurisdictions.

Idaho

Valerie Wade, Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Environmental Programs Officer

Trish Carter-Goodheart, Nez Perce,
Director of Community Resilience for Thrive
Safety Solutions





Session 13

Opioids and Overdose Response

Sean Hemmerle, Program Director, Washington State Project to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths, Washington Department of Health

Attendees of this session will be provided with information on how to recognize and respond to opioid- and stimulant-related overdoses, as well as how to administer both injectable and nasal naloxone, including hands-on demonstrations. The session will also cover how to obtain naloxone kits for personal use and in the workplace, and how Tribes, Tribal Health Organizations, and Urban Indian Health Organizations in Washington can access free naloxone. In addition, participants will learn how opioids interact with the body and brain and how to address common misconceptions regarding illicit fentanyl.

Session 14

A Potential Treatment for Substance Use Disorders: Data on GLP-1 and GIP Combination Drugs for SUD Patients

*Dr. Frank James, Health Officer, Lummi Nation
Paul James, RN, Intern at Lummi Nation*

The long-term prospective studies needed to bring this into the mainstream have already started, and final data will be available within two years. But for now, why is this an exciting new opportunity? There are very few treatments for most SUDs, so the possibility of effective medical treatments is very exciting. We will review the data and the challenges that make this approach still challenging.

2026 Planning Committee

- Angela Boyer-Shaw
- Antionette Ruiz
- Carey Palm
- Christopher Fish
- Clarice Charging
- Daniel Ravenel
- Danny Martinez
- Desiree Markishtum
- Elyse Kelsey
- Frank James
- John Wheaton
- Meileyani Winn
- Melino Gianotti
- Nancy Bennett
- Nicole Estes
- Nicole Smith
- Ryan Sealy
- Susan Becker
- Tia Skerbeck
- Valorie Gaede

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THANK YOU!





Complete the 2026 Conference Evaluation in Real Time

- ⇒ Use your laptop or mobile device by following the instructions below.
- ⇒ Remember to click the **Next Button** to save your responses.
- ⇒ Pick only one method! Use either your mobile device or your laptop, **not both!**

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- Open your device's camera
- Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the Camera app's viewfinder.
- A notification will appear automatically.
- Tap the notification to open the link.

Instructions for Android Smartphone or Tablet:

- Open the Play Store on your Android device.
- ♦ Type QR code reader into the search box and tap search.
- ♦ This displays a list of QR code reading apps.
- ♦ Find and install a QR Code Reader app.
- ♦ Open QR Code Reader and allow it to access your camera.
- ♦ Line up the QR code in the camera frame.
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