

2026 Tribal Public Health Emergency
Preparedness Conference
May 4 – 8, 2026
Quinault Beach Resort & Casino

**Strengthening Emergency
Response Systems:
Workforce Readiness &
Coordination**



“We are the original caretakers of this land, and it’s our responsibility to speak out and protect it.”

- Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, in an interview with The New York Times, 2021



Session Objectives

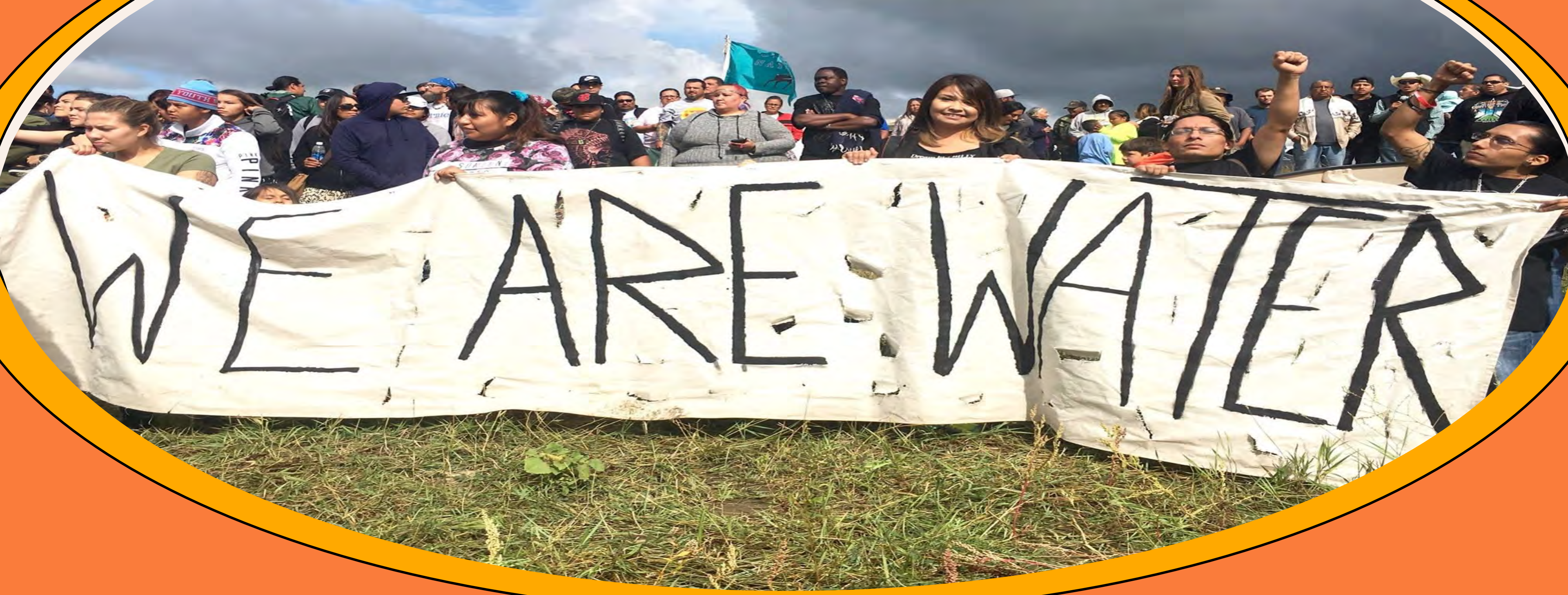
- 01 Explain how to identify gaps in communication and response systems**
- 02 Practice decision-making during a real-world scenario**
- 03 Define 1–2 actions to strengthen readiness**



Who here has dealt with a power outage, staff shortages, infrastructure failure, or a weather event that disrupted operations in the past year?



Setting the
Frame



Systems, Not Just Events

What Is a "Response System"?

People



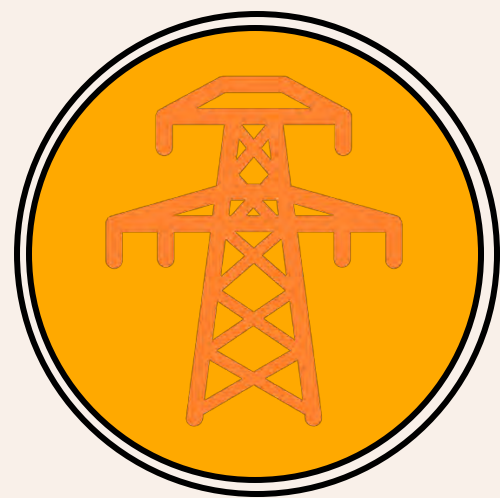
Workforce, leadership

Processes



Plans, roles, procedures

Infrastructure



Power, water,
transportation

Communication



Communication systems

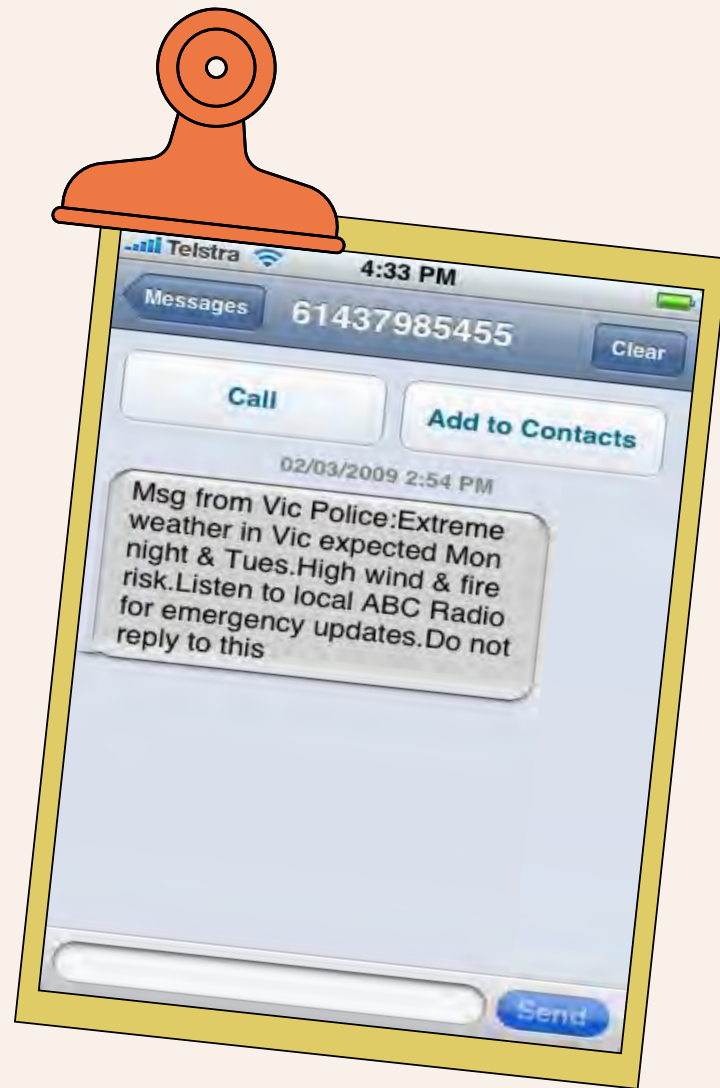


Where Systems Break

- **Unclear roles**
- **Weak communication**
- **No backup systems**
- **Lack of training**
- **No coordination with partners**



Communication Systems



Emergency text alerts / phone notifications



Local TV & radio



CHWs / door-to-door outreach



Social media / family, friends, and coworkers

Examples of System Failures

01.

Power out?

→ texts fail.



02.

Internet down?

→ social media fails.

03.

Phones down?

→ CHWs matter.



“The snowstorms are more intense and unpredictable. It’s changing how we hunt, fish, and live.”

—Renaë Nunez, Yup’ik Elder, Alaska Public Media, 2020





Emergency Response Phases

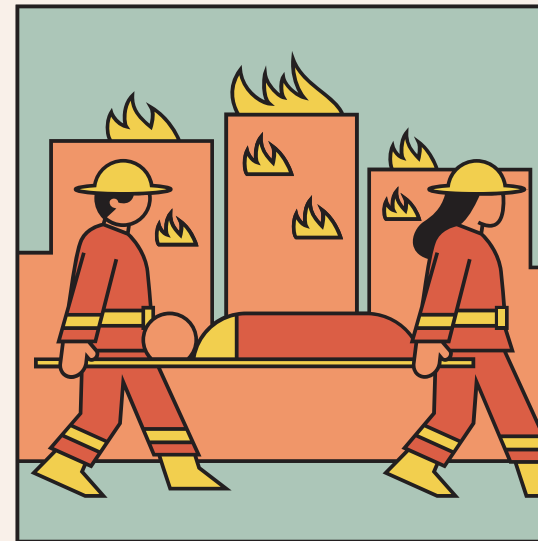
Emergency Response Phases

Pre-event



- Monitor risks
- Early alerts
- Identify vulnerable populations
- Pre-position resources

During event



- Activate response structure
- Maintain communication
- Provide services safely
- Coordinate with partners

Recovery



- Communicate timelines
- Assess impact
- Document lessons learned



Hands-On Scenario: Clinic Without Water for 3 Days During Snowstorm

Clinic without water for 3 days



No running water



Limited staff

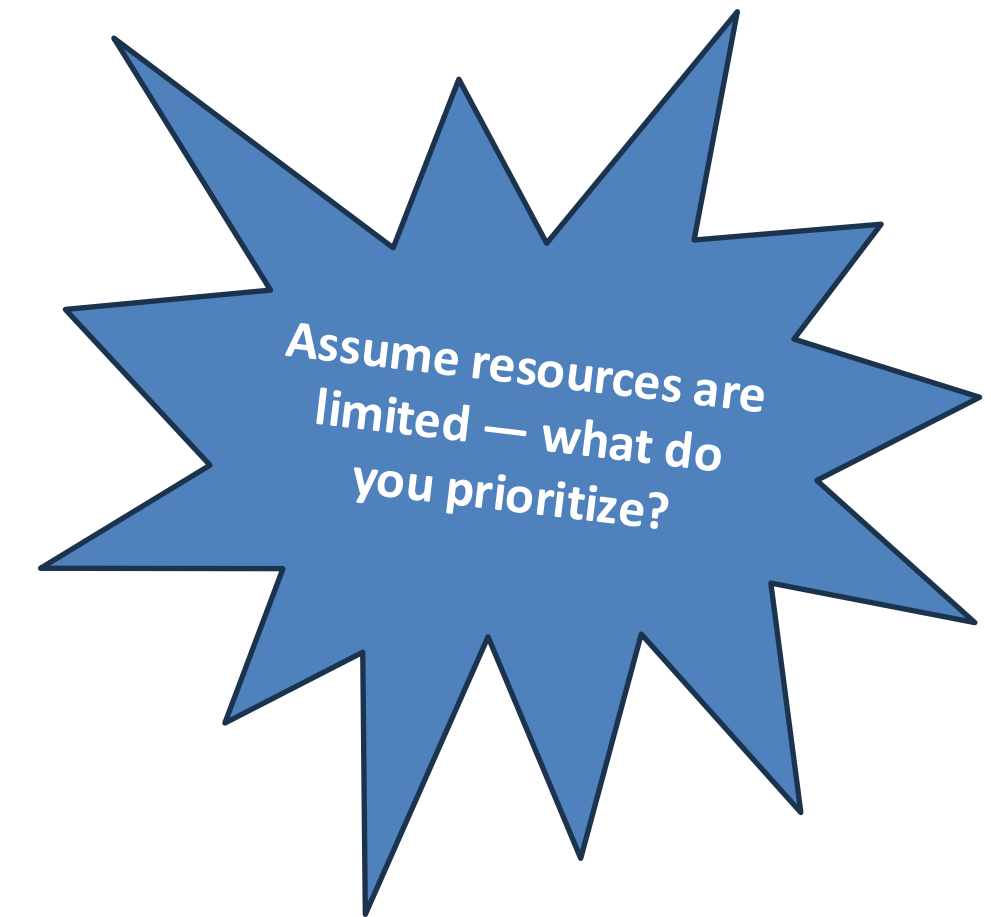


Patients still arriving

Real-World Scenario: Group Activity Instructions

Discuss In Group:

- 1. What stops immediately?**
- 2. What continues?**
- 3. How do you communicate?**
- 4. Who makes decisions?**



10 minutes

Small Group Report Out

- What failed?
- What slowed you down?
- What assumptions broke?

Connecting Back to System Gaps

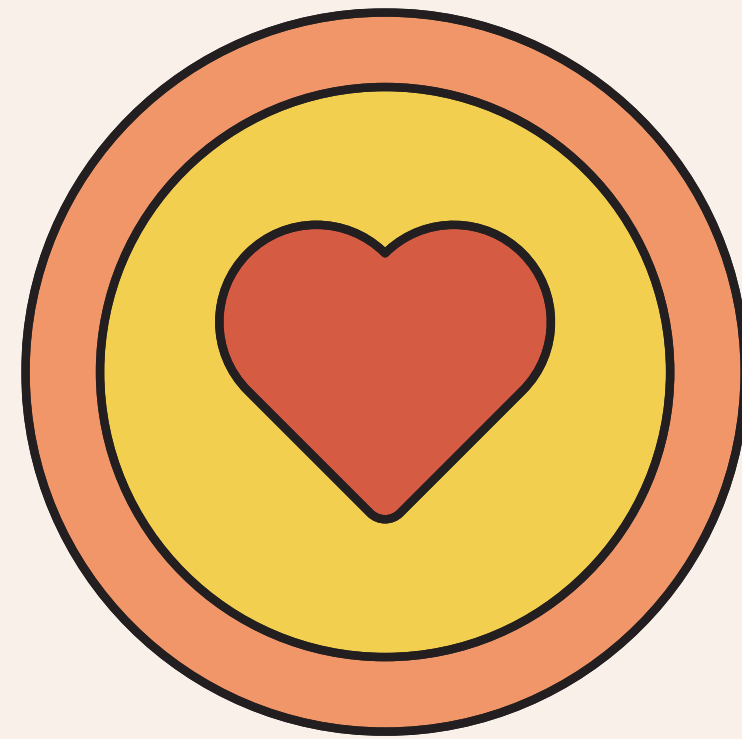
Where did your system break?

- Unclear roles
- Communication
- Backup systems
- Training
- Coordination



What will
you do in
the next 30
days?

Questions



Thank
You



Thank You!

**Please
complete
session
evaluation**

