

Local Course Deliveries Reaching Tribal Partners in Texas and New Mexico

While tribal employees consistently give high ratings for the tribal curriculum courses offered onsite at EMI, many tribes are only able to send one representative to the EMI campus due to limited travel resources or lack of the time required for the long-distance travel to the course. Local course deliveries, notated by an “L” in front of a course number, allow tribal governments for which resources are limited to send more staff to be trained.

The recently-formed Southwest Inter-Tribal Emergency Manager’s Coalition (SW ITEMC) partnered with EMI to bring an offering of course L0580, *Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments*, to Albuquerque, New Mexico in February of 2018. Response for this local delivery from the tribal organizations in the state was remarkable. Thirty emergency managers, tribal leaders, department directors, and emergency services personnel representing 12 different tribes attended the course. A second offering of course L0580 was held in Albuquerque six months later also with an excellent turnout.

Many of those who attended the L0580 courses in Albuquerque, New Mexico, noted that they would never have been able to get away for an entire week at EMI, but the ability to stay close to home allowed them to participate.

The Emergency Manager for the Pueblo of Sandia, Tanya Allen, commented, “Having a local offering of the course allowed several representatives from the same tribe to attend as a team – something they would not have been able to do if out-of-state travel was required.” When multiple staff of a tribal organization attend training, together there is more immediate capacity and capability built for that organization with the newly trained team and they are better equipped to spread the responsibility of creating positive changes when they return home after the training.

The SW ITEMC also sponsored delivery of the L0581, *Emergency Operations for Tribal Governments*, in June of 2019, and the course received very high evaluation marks for content and instruction. Several of the tribes are also partnering with FEMA Region VI and EMI to bring the 4-hour L0583, *Emergency Management Overview for Tribal Leaders* course directly to the tribes in the southwest. The Pueblo of Zuni, for example, had 67 tribal representatives in attendance for the course delivered in April of 2019. Written responses to what was most valuable about the Zuni, NM L0583 course included:

- So happy to be able to identify what we have so far in our community to do as far as were to start in case of an emergency.
- Information provided to help during any disaster. Basic knowledge that was given gave me a better understanding of how to manage.
- All material was very important, and good to understand.
- Both instructors were well knowledgeable on what they’re teaching. There was a lot more information that I didn't know.
- Getting to know all aspects of emergency management. Didn't know much about this program when I first came in. Our community is in dire need of this program for the tribe.
- Best Instructor Ever.

Training Contributes to Professional Success as a Tribal Emergency Manager

Mr. Nelson Andrews, Jr., is a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Emergency Management Director for the Nation located in Massachusetts.

Four years ago, Mr. Andrews established the Emergency Management Department for the Nation, drawing on his previous 10 years as a FEMA employee. He first served as the Logistics Section Chief during the 2011 Springfield, MA tornado.



He then went on to serve in more than 20 Presidentially declared disasters, including hurricanes Katrina and Sandy and served as a director for on one of the National Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs).

As the Emergency Management Director for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, his key roles and responsibilities are the preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery for the Tribe, all while building out the key foundation components and sections of Logistics, Operations, Planning, Finance and Administration. Mr. Andrews attended his first *E0580, Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments* course in 2016 and has completed several EMI courses during his tenure as the Emergency Management Director for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Mr. Andrews is also a member of the Barnstable County All Hazards Incident Management Team, and on a more national level, he is the Co-Chair of the Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee for the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET). USET is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization representing 30 federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands (Maine) to the Everglades (Florida) across the Gulf of Mexico (Texas). Mr. Andrews is also a member of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group and DOE Tribal Radioactive Material Transportation Committee in addition to various other tribal and national committees and working groups.

Mr. Andrews was the fourth Tribal Nation graduate of the FEMA National Emergency Management Advanced Academy and one of the first of the FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) Academy.

“My experience has provided me the opportunities to meet with the Administrators of FEMA under two administrations as well as the Deputy Assistant Secretary and Undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security as an invitational guest on separate occasions to provide insight and engagement on the needs of Tribal Nations in regard to emergency management capability gaps and discussions related to amendments of the Robert T. Stafford Act.”

The majority of the support that Mr. Andrews provides to his Nation and surrounding jurisdictions is made possible through grant funding.

“At the present time, I manage 10 grants all ranging in funding amounts and scope. I have applied for these grants through countless hours of research, narrative, and budgets and am continuously applying for additional funding as these are the means in which our EM department is fully sustained. Through this current grant funding, I have been able to enhance the capabilities of the EM department significantly. We now have response vehicles, all ranges of generators, Red Cross instructor training, Shelters and Kits, Search and Rescue drones with Thermal imaging, FAA Remote Pilot Certifications and FAA Waiver Certificate of Authorizations to legally fly over accident/incident scenes as one of the first in New England. In addition to being one of the first entities our EM Department has started and been awarded funding for the first and only tribal AmeriCorps program on the eastern half of the United States. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe AmeriCorps Program has a primary focus area on disaster services. The AmeriCorps program will complement the EM department’s Community Emergency Response Team and Tribal Emergency Response Task Force. Additional resources have been obtained through a Government surplus program and partnership that I have established; some of these resources include Coast Guard boats for search and rescue, response vehicles, tow-behind HVAC generator and EM response travel trailers, in addition to a number of other preparedness and response assets.”

Throughout his career, Mr. Andrews has had many opportunities to speak about areas of concern for Tribal Emergency Management:

- Guest speaker at FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute National Preparedness Symposium
- Member of the Focus Groups for the Tribal Curriculum updates underway that will be used to assist Tribal Governments in developing and enhancing their emergency management capacity and capability.
- Guest speaker at the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, where he gave a presentation on post-disaster pitfalls and how various tribal nations are affected.
- Speaker at the U.S. Coast Guard’s Southeast New England Conference in addition to various
- DHS FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness Tribal Training Week Focus Group. Mr. Andrews’ most recent invitational
- Speaker at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) 2019 All-Hazards Emergency Management Conference presenting on “Tribal All-Hazards Preparedness and the Interlacing Dynamics Between Tribal, State, and Local Emergency Management.”

Mr. Andrews states,

“Many of these skills I’ve learned and applied and the opportunities I’ve had can be attributed to my previous experience within FEMA in addition to the knowledge and networking gained through the EMI Tribal Curriculum and other EMI training opportunities.”