**FREE ONLINE COVID-19 SAFETY TRAINING**

The Alabama Fire College (AFC) offers free training to people who may work around others during the current pandemic. The novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease (called COVID-19) has spread rapidly through the United States and even threatens Indian Country. On May 1, the Indian Health Services reported that 33,842 IHS patients had been tested and 3,465 of them had positive results. The virus spreads from person-to-person by contact and respiratory pathways and often before someone knows they have the disease. You have no doubt been affected by the social-distancing and other efforts to reduce the spread of the disease through limiting the contact between people in public. But life must go on and no one can completely avoid other people.

As part of AFC’s response in our own state of Alabama, we developed a short online training course to prepare people who work as volunteers to help the public, such as foodbanks and homeless shelters. This course has information about the virus and how it spreads as well as ways that you can protect yourself. It includes some data and information that relates to Birmingham, Alabama, but most of the training would be helpful to tribal members in their activities anywhere in Indian Country. We would like to share access to the course with any tribe or nation that would benefit from information about preventing the disease.

Anyone can take the course by clicking on this link

<https://olc.alabamafirecollege.org/course/view.php?id=4055> or typing it into your web browser to go to AFC’s Online Learning Center. You will need to click the “Create new account” button and follow the directions to set up an account. Please enter “Native American” in the required “Organization you are training for” field at the bottom of the form. This will let you print a certificate after the training and help us count trainees for the grant that provided funding. Then you can click the “COVID-19 Volunteer Safety Training” link to go to the course. After taking the training, you can take a short quiz and then you can print a certificate to show you completed the course.

We hope this training will be helpful to anyone wanting to protect themselves while helping others. If you have questions, feel free to contact Kenny Oldfield at AFC (koldfield@alabamafirecollege,org).