



USET

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Homeland Security and Emergency Services Report

3/09/2026 - 3/11/2026

Met under the direction of: Willo Sylestine

Impact Week

Tribal Nations Represented: 8

Committee members: 8

DAY ONE:

Topics Discussed

Outcomes

<p>Day 1 (Monday, March 9th) - Joined the Board of Directors all day.</p>	<p>Day 1- Participated in Opening Ceremony. Updated on Department of Homeland Security shutdown. Updated on SPF Policies & Legislation. Updates on litigation efforts.</p>
<p>Day 2 (Tuesday, March 10th) - HSES business session, Tribal updates/introductions. - US Forest Service provided resources and funding available for tribes. - Buereau of Indian Affairs provided and update, and resources available for tribes. Indian Health Services provided an update and resources available for tribes.</p>	<p>Day 2 - - Engaged with all tribal representatives on updates and ideas to keep attendance. - Talked about the need for monthly virtual calls with all HSES committee members. - Addressed the need for grant training/seminars or future table top exercises for inperson meetings. - Continue to engage with federal partners and gather information regarding available resources.</p>

Next Steps / Actionable Items / Responsible Party

Work with committee members on how to get tribal fire departments and emergency management departments to want to participate in meetings
 Send out a survey asking tribes what they want from us. Do they have EM and or FD or EMS?



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DAY TWO:

Topics Discussed	Outcomes
<p>Day 3 - Discussion with USET Deputy Director Dee Sabattus & Staff regarded committee restructures and organization changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USET Grant Resources updates and resources available. - Catawba Power & Lighting a Native owned infrastructure partner for commerical & tribal project with resources they offer under contract. - USET Tribal Public Health Preparedness and Resilience Task Force update with Anna Garrett the Senior Epidemiologist. - FirstNet Authority introducing resources available for First Responders. - Business Session Elections held, plans for next meeting, at a glance agenda. 	<p>Day 3 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed concerns & comments to USET Staff. -Gathered information regarding resources USET's Grants department offers. - Gathered information on what Catawba Power & Lighting has to offer for lighting solutions, generators, & backup power, switchgear & power distribution. - Gathered information on current updates & resources we can request through the Task Force. - Informed of inperson Active Shooter Training happening in Miami for the USET Tribal Nations tailored to both civilian and first responders with two separate tracks. - FirstNet Authority Gathered information on resources offered during emergencies. - Gives Priority cell phone service to all AT&T 5G Bands. - Filled vacant Co Chair Seat Elected New Secretary. -Plan for next meeting , and started building an at a glance agenda.

Next Steps / Actionable Items / Responsible Party

Make plans for Best Practices Meeting in June, work with IHS to do a tour at Project Transam facility. Be more proactive and set up monthly meetings with HSES Committee members. Work toward more resolutions and to keep communication lines open for updates on all resolutions.



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OTHER Business:

Informed about TERRA ACT

The Tribal Emergency Response Resources (TERRA) Act (H.R. 3654) is a bipartisan bill designed to streamline how Tribal Nations access federal funding for natural disaster preparation, response, and climate resilience. It reduces bureaucratic hurdles, allows for unified reporting, and supports tribal sovereignty in managing, for example, coastal, forest, or agricultural land-based risks.

At A Glance Topics for Next Meeting:

- Tabletop Exercise
- Federal Updates
 - United States Fire Administration
 - NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency)
 - FEMA
 - IHS
 - BIA
- Grant Presentation?
- USET Tribal Public Health Preparedness and Resilience Task Force
- Go Over Tribal Survey

Election Results:

Co Chair - Willo Sylestine
Co Chair - Paige Sprague
Secretary - Shawn Newell

Report Completed by:

Paige Sprague