



Protecting Tribal Communities During and After Disasters through Mutual Aid

February 9, 2017

AIHC Delegates Meeting

Goals of Today's Presentation

Provide an overview of the AIHC's Tribal-Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) Project

Invite delegates from tribes in Regions 1, 2 and 3 to participate in the MAA project





INTRODUCTION

Mutual Aid Agreements and Tribal Communities



Emergency Preparedness



Disasters and Public Health Emergencies are a Fact of Life

1. **Wildfires**, 2015 - burned nearly 250,000 acres of Colville Reservation
2. **OSO Mudslide**, 2014 - Sauk-Suiattle, Stillaguamish, and Tulalip Tribes affected
3. **Measles Outbreak**, 2015 – Clallam County, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe




Preparing for Disasters through Partnerships

What is Mutual Aid?

“the sharing of supplies, equipment, personnel, and information across political boundaries.”

“Mutual Aid Agreements: Essential Legal Tools for Public Health Preparedness and Response,” Daniel D. Stier, JD, and Richard A. Goodman, MD, JD, MPH, *Am J Public Health*; 97: S62.





“When (Hurricane) Andrew hit (1992), there was no standardized way for states to share resources...It ended up being a midnight phone call between governors. ...A lot of legal things had to be done in the middle of the night.”

-Amy Hughes
Policy Analyst

National Emergency Association

“Mutual Aid Agreements: Essential Legal Tools for Public Health Preparedness and Response,”
Daniel D. Stier, JD, and Richard A. Goodman, MD, JD, MPH, *Am J Public Health*; 97: S62.



Preparing for Disasters through Partnerships

Mutual aid is accomplished by entering into agreements with other jurisdictions.



Why Tribes Need Strong Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships

1. Public health issues, emergencies and disasters know no boundaries
2. Public health emergencies and natural disasters can quickly overwhelm the resources of any tribal, local or state jurisdiction



Why Tribes Need Strong Multi-Jurisdictional Partnerships

3. Local Health Officers do not have jurisdiction on tribal land
4. Federal funding for emergency preparedness and response has steadily declined
5. Although some tribes have been developing and adopting public health codes, most tribes have gaps



How a Mutual Aid Agreement Can Benefit Your Tribe

- Supports relationships and systems to quickly and effectively request and receive assistance
- Supports your tribal government in maintaining maximum control over who provides assistance and what type of assistance is provided, during a community emergency



How a Mutual Aid Agreement Can Benefit Your Tribe

- Plays an important role in tribal legal preparedness
- Establishes structured mechanisms for your tribe to delegate or share authority – if you choose - during public health emergencies





EXAMPLE OF A TRIBAL-COUNTY MUTUAL
AID AGREEMENT

Olympic Regional Tribal-Public Health MAA



Background

Olympic Tribal-Public Health MAA

WA State's Public Health Emergency Planning Region 2

TRIBES	LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS
Hoh Tribe	Kitsap County Health District
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Clallam County Health Dept.
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Jefferson County Health Dept.
Makah Nation	
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	
Quileute Nation	
Suquamish Tribe	



Background

Olympic Tribal-Public Health MAA

- In 2008, Jefferson/Clallam Local Health Officer (LHO), Dr. Tom Locke, and Kitsap LHO, Dr. Scott Lindquist, proposed and supported a project to develop a MAA
- Tribes expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of a MAA
- DOH agreed to support the work



Background

Olympic Tribal-Public Health MAA

- 2008 - Workgroup convened to write the agreement
- 2009 - 7 Tribes in the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas and the three Local Health Jurisdictions signed the agreement
- 2010 - Workgroup completed the Operational Plan



Highlights

Olympic Tribal-Public Health MAA

- Regional; multiple signatories
- Can be invoked for public health emergencies and for other public health collaboration (e.g., training, immunization clinics, etc.)
- Provides tribes with two options if they choose to request aid (on a case-by-case basis): 1) temporarily grant authority to local jurisdiction, or 2) maintain authority and seek technical assistance



Highlights

Olympic MAA Operational Plan

- Checklists
- Resource request form
- List of public health laws
- Sample Tribal Council resolution to temporarily grant authority to county health officer (at Tribal Council's discretion)





OVERVIEW

AIHC MAA PROJECT 2017



Overview of AIHC's MAA Project

AIHC submitted an application for DOH's Tribal Reinvestment Funds and was approved



Overview of AIHC's MAA Project

OBJECTIVE 1: Revise the existing Operational Plan for Region 2.

Tribes in Region 2:

Hoh
Jamestown S'Klallam
Lower Elwha Klallam
Makah Nation
Port Gamble S'Klallam
Quileute Tribe
Suquamish Tribe



Overview of AIHC's MAA Project

OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitate a collaborative process for tribes and local health jurisdictions in Regions 1 and 3 to develop mutual aid agreements.

Tribes in Region 1:

Lummi Nation
Nooksack Tribe
Samish Tribe
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe,
Stillaguamish Tribe
Swinomish Tribe
Tulalip Tribes
Upper Skagit Tribe

Tribes in Region 3:

Chehalis Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Nisqually Tribe
Quinault Nation
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe



Partners by Region

Region 2	Region 1	Region 3
Hoh Tribe	Lummi Nation	Chehalis Tribe
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Nooksack Tribe	(Cowlitz Tribe)
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Samish Tribe	Nisqually Tribe
Makah Nation	Sauk-Suiattle Tribe	Quinault Nation
Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe	Stillaguamish Tribe	Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Quileute Nation	Swinomish Tribe	Skokomish Tribe
Suquamish Tribe	Tulalip Tribes	Squaxin Island Tribe
Clallam County LHJ	Upper Skagit Tribe	Grays Harbor LHJ
Jefferson County LHJ	Island County LHJ	Lewis County LHJ
Kitsap County LHJ	San Juan County LHJ	Mason County LHJ
	Skagit County LHJ	Pacific County LHJ
	Snohomish County LHJ	Thurston County LHJ
	Whatcom County LHJ	



Project Activities

- Conduct outreach and site visits to tribes to obtain tribal engagement and input
- Facilitate in-person kick-off meetings with representatives from tribes and LHJs at each region
- Facilitate ongoing webinar meetings with Region 2 to collaboratively revise operational plan



Project Activities

- Facilitate ongoing webinar meetings with Regions 1 and 3 to collaboratively develop MAAs and operational plans
- Develop, distribute, publish and post training materials for each MAA



Kickoff Meetings

- Region 2: February 15, Elwha Klallam Heritage Center
- Region 1: February 22, Swinomish Casino and Lodge
- Region 3: Chehalis Tribe's Lucky Eagle Hotel



The “Asks”

1. Please share materials with others at your tribe (Tribal Council, Tribal Attorneys, Emergency Managers, etc.)
2. Please obtain your tribe’s commitment to participate in the project and submit to Lou Schmitz, lou.schmitz.aihc@outlook.com
-(Sample resolution is provided – not required)





Additional information on the AIHC
website under:

- Public Health
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Mutual Aid Project



Questions?

