

For Immediate Release

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CONTACT:

Julius Elwood, Community Liaison
(928) 729-2141
jelwood@co.apache.az.us



Apache County Declares State of Emergency to address a record-breaking snowfall.

Ganado, Arizona - On February 20, 2019 Apache County Board of Supervisors Declared a State of Emergency. Upon the Declaration of Emergency, Apache County District 2 Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd immediately initiated the process of clearing snow on all of District 2's County Roads. District 2 is prioritizing snow removal on roads in the order of heavy snow accumulations on County roads and school bus routes then highly traveled roads.



Due to severe weather conditions and heavy snow, Apache County District 2 will be focused on our priority roads. The purpose of the initial pass is to open the roads to permit responsible traffic flow. It is extremely difficult not to leave a windrow of snow on driveways off the main roads. This snow removal will also benefit the roads by removing the amount of snow melt so that the roads do not get as muddy.

Since the Emergency operations began, on February 20, 2019, District 2 has deployed 6 graders that have been in operation from sun up to sun down. Presently, Apache County has conducted approximately **358 miles** of snow removal in 10-chapter communities that have been hardest hit by the heavy snowfall and those efforts continue today.

"We have been blessed with some much-needed snow and we are all very grateful and happy for that. I would like to ask the community members of Apache County District 2 to please be patient as our staff are working throughout the Emergency Declaration to try to address all highly traveled roads. Please prepare for the snow melt, which will create extremely muddy conditions. Apache County District 2 has been working closely in coordination with the Navajo Nation Incident Command System and the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation," stated Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd.

The Apache County Emergency Operations Center is currently closely monitoring the situation, and the public can reach the center at (928) 551-2876. The Navajo Nation Emergency Operation Center is fully activated and can be reached at (505) 371-8417.

Unfortunately, due to the Declared State of Emergency and maximum usage of equipment and manpower, we are unable to help with burial assistance until the emergency is lifted.

We ask for your cooperation and understanding. Please check on your elders and continue to take precautions while traveling and stay safe.

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