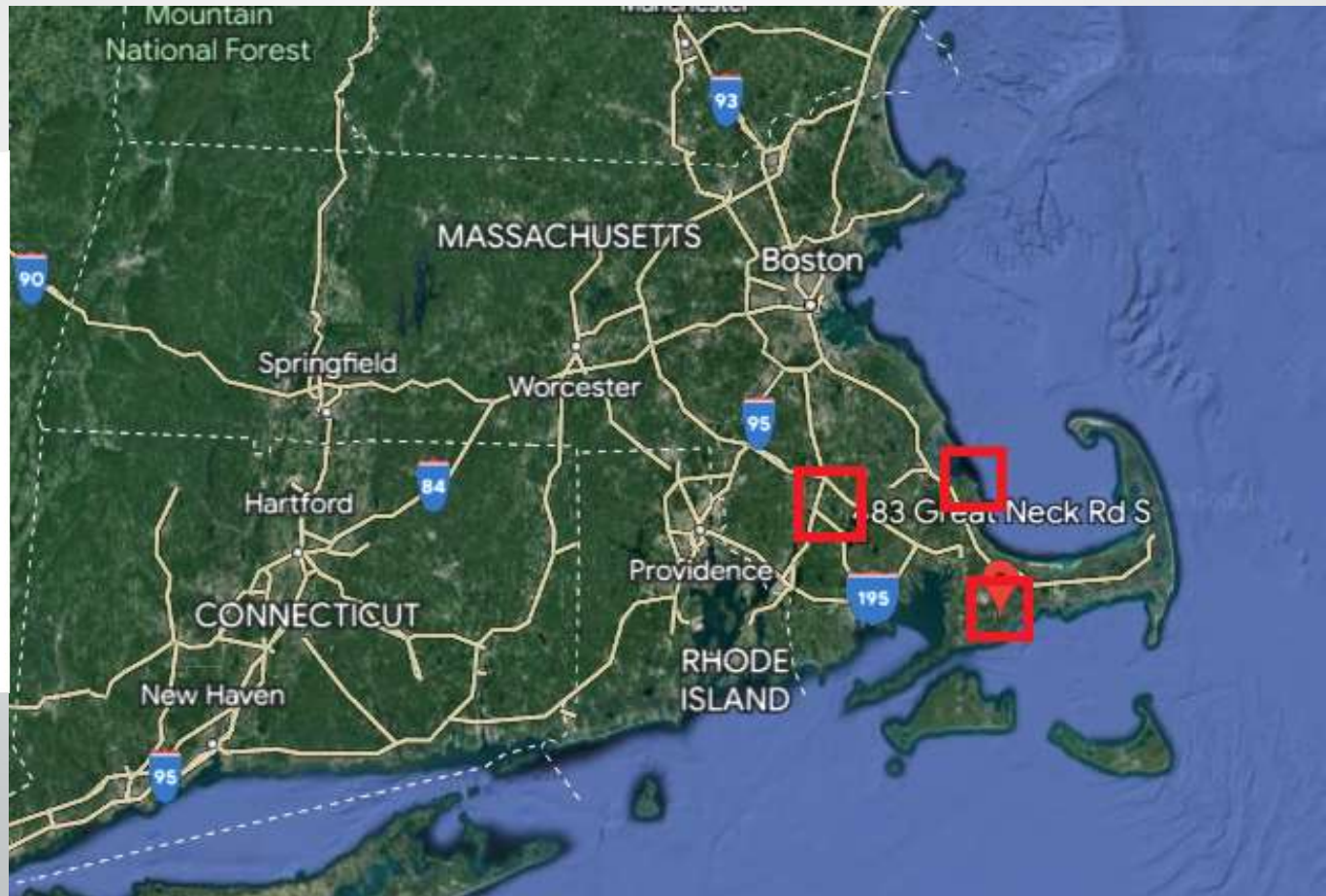


**U.S Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board**  
Spring Board Meeting – Orlando, FL  
March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Nelson Andrews Jr - Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe**  
**Tribal Councilman - Director of Emergency Management,**  
Chairman, USET Homeland Security & Emergency Services Committee,  
Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Executive Committee,  
Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group

# Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

## “People of the First Light”



*The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, also known as the People of the First Light, has inhabited present day Massachusetts and Eastern Rhode Island for more than 12,000 years. After an arduous process lasting more than three decades, the Mashpee Wampanoag were re-acknowledged as a federally recognized tribe in 2007.*



# Tribal Emergency Management Department Capacity Issues

- The large majority of tribes, do not have an emergency management department or EM individual in place. Therefore, they lack the capacity to effectively produce the fundamental emergency plans. As a result, the large majority of tribes do not have the capacity or guidance to begin the aspects of emergency preparedness, response and recovery for their tribal community.
- The tribal emergency management department must be built on the foundation and principles of the National Incident Management System (ICS) and organized through four key departmental elements. Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section and Finance/Admin Section.

# The affects of the Stafford Act and Tribal Preparedness

- The federal government utilizes the Robert. T Stafford Act which in large part outlines the funding and resource support for states. The Stafford Act was not initially intended to incorporate federally recognized tribes to be in parity with states. Since the passage of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) in 2013, FEMA has dedicated additional resources toward assisting tribes in some key initial focus areas as well such as; FEMA's Tribal Policy, FEMA's Tribal Consultation Policy; and FEMA's Tribal Declaration Pilot Guidance.

# The Need for Direct Tribal EM Funding

- The lack of direct funding for tribal nations toward their emergency services and emergency management programs, is the leading cause of major financial difficulties and deficiencies toward the road of self sufficiency.
- The states within the U.S receive direct funding and grants each year through the federal government that enable them to be self-sufficient, when it comes to having dedicated staff and resources to ensure their communities are prepared. If a direct line of funding toward tribal emergency services were available for tribes as well, then it would help to streamline many processes pre and post disaster/incident and bring tribes toward parity with the states.

## Disparities Leading to National Security Gaps

- Natural, man-made disasters, incidents, future hazardous material shipments within reservation boundaries and foreign and domestic threats to our nation including homegrown terrorism are on the rise. These threats require tribal nations to develop and enhance our nations response planning, training, and exercise efforts. However, funding to tribal nations for critical needs has remained insufficient to meet their minimum needs. Federal efforts to create a cohesive and coordinated homeland security strategy that does not include necessary resources for Indian country will leave a significant and potentially dangerous gap in many aspects of safety and security for the entire nation.

## Funding Disparities

- On June 30, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the “nearly \$1.8 billion in FY 2020 granted to assist states, local areas, tribal and territorial governments, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector with their preparedness efforts.”<sup>77</sup> Of this \$1.8 billion, **roughly \$30 million went to tribal nations or 1.6% of the allocation. DHS provides \$4.9 million in preparedness grants daily to state governments and their political subdivisions. It only takes six days for the states to exceed an entire year of homeland security funding provided to tribal nations.** Tribal nations abilities to meet a basic level of homeland security and preparedness is diminished by burdensome DHS requirements and unfunded mandates inserted into the DHS competitive grant process, which were instituted without tribal consultation. Additionally, not all 574 tribal nations can currently access DHS funding due to roadblocks placed by DHS and Congress.
- NCAI FISCAL YEAR 2022 INDIAN COUNTRY BUDGET REQUEST



# DISPARITY IN DHS FUNDING TO TRIBES

**DHS STATE FUNDING**

**\$1.6 BILLION**  
(ANNUALLY)

**DHS TRIBAL FUNDING**

**\$14 MILLION**  
(ANNUALLY)



## Conclusion

- Until true parity is achieved, tribal communities will be unable to fully participate in the national homeland security and emergency preparedness strategies and will continue to unnecessarily and unfairly be a weak link in protecting vital infrastructure from domestic and international terrorist attacks, natural disasters, hazardous materials shipments and related threats. These funding shortfalls for tribal nations place all Americans at risk.

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