

Tribal

Emergency Management CONFERENCE

JUNE 10- 11, 2025

PECHANGA
RESORT CASINO
Temecula, CA

Tuesday, June 10

6/6/25
2:30PM

7:45 - 8:45 AM

Registration and Networking Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 AM

Welcoming Remarks



Justin O'Connor
President
Native Nation Events



Ken Perez
President
Pechanga Development Corporation

9:00 - 9:45 AM

General Session

The THREE KNOCKS and AMOR FATI.

Life knocks three times—the call to grow, the call to serve, and the call to let go. In this session, we explore how Amor Fati—the love of fate—helps us answer each one with courage and grace. You'll create your MVP Life Document, charting a path of meaning and impact, and learn how fulfillment comes from "passing the rope" to others. When the final knock comes, it's not what you built, but who you became—and how deeply you lived—that defines your legacy.



Jim Stroker
Coach
Native Nation Events

Tuesday, June 10

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Tribal Leaders Update Roundtable

Listen as tribal leaders dive into what they believe are the most pressing topics within Native America from the past year and into the future. What areas have tribes improved on in the last year? What are some current issues that need to be addressed within Native America? How will has the election affected tribes? Tribal leaders will answer these questions and more, giving an overview of the state of Native America.

MODERATOR:



James Klas
Founder and Principal
KlasRobinson Q.E.D., Inc.

SPEAKERS:



Mark Fox
Chairman
MHA Nation



James Siva
Vice Chairman
Morongo Band of Mission Indians



Sonny Elliott
Chairman
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians

10:45 - 11:15 AM

Morning Networking Break

Tuesday, June 10

Emergency Management Conference Begins

11:15 - 12:15 PM

Emergency Management Roundtable – Building A Strong Emergency Management Program

A strong emergency management program is key to community resilience. This panel will cover essential elements like risk assessment, planning, response coordination, and recovery. Experts will share best practices, innovative strategies, and lessons learned to enhance preparedness across sectors. Discussion topics include cross-agency collaboration, community engagement, and emerging technologies. Attendees will gain actionable insights to strengthen their programs and improve crisis response.

MODERATOR:



Sheryl Stering
Senior Director of Presales
Omnigo Software

SPEAKERS:



Zuzzette Bricker, CEM
Emergency Services Coordinator
Pechanga Fire Department

Paul Mesa
Deputy Director of Emergency Management
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona



David Ellsworth
Emergency Manager
Morongo Band of Mission Indians



David Diabo
Chief
Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

12:15 - 1:15 PM

Networking Lunch

Tuesday, June 10

1:15 - 2:15 PM

Strengthening Intergovernmental Collaboration: Partnering with State and Federal Agencies in Emergency Management

Effective emergency management requires strong collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies. This panel will explore strategies for intergovernmental partnerships, resource coordination, and streamlined communication. Experts will share best practices, funding tips, and compliance guidance, along with real-world case studies. Attendees will gain practical insights to enhance cooperation and improve crisis response.

MODERATOR:



Eddie Ilko
Safety and Occupational Health Manager
National Indian Gaming Commission

SPEAKERS:



Amy Tanner
Emergency Management Director
Cherokee Nation



Jeff Hansen
Director of Community Protection
Choctaw Nation

Tuesday, June 10

2:15 - 2:45 PM | **Afternoon Networking Break**

2:45 - 3:45 PM | **Securing Funding and Grants for Emergency Management Programs**

Securing funding and grants is crucial for effective emergency management. This panel will explore strategies for identifying funding opportunities, writing strong grant proposals, and navigating the funding process. Experts will share tips on leveraging federal, state, and private-sector funds, as well as managing grants and ensuring compliance. Attendees will gain practical insights to secure and use funding effectively for preparedness and response.

MODERATOR:



Beverly Santicola
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Center for Rural Outreach and Public Services, Inc.

SPEAKERS:



Denae Johnson
Government Relations Funding Specialist
KLJ Engineering



Michael Gates
Director
Seneca Nation Emergency Management



Phillip Escoriaza
Partner
Feldesman Leifer LLP

Tuesday, June 10

3:45- 4:45 PM
Summit Ballroom AB

Mass Casualty Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

Preventing, preparing for, and responding to mass casualty incidents requires a coordinated and strategic approach. This panel will examine key elements of mass casualty management, including risk mitigation, emergency planning, resource allocation, and multi-agency collaboration. Experts will discuss best practices for rapid response, medical triage, and crisis communication, as well as the role of technology in improving situational awareness. Real-world case studies will highlight lessons learned and strategies to enhance preparedness and resilience. Attendees will gain valuable insights to strengthen their mass casualty response plans and improve outcomes in high-impact emergencies.

MODERATOR:



David Crowl
FIRE/EMS/Law Enforcement Sales
Henry Schein

SPEAKERS:



Clint Johnson
Executive Director of Public Safety
Chumash Enterprises



Charles Kmet
Emergency Manager
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



David Cook
Senior Director
Fort Still Apache Gaming Commission

4:45 PM

Day One Concludes

Wednesday, June 11

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Registration and Networking Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Building Cyber Resilience: Preparing for, Responding to, and Recovering from Cyber Attacks

Learn how Native American communities and businesses can prepare for, respond to, and recover from cyber attacks. This session covers practical strategies tailored to tribal needs, helping protect critical systems, data, and sovereignty in an evolving threat landscape.

MODERATOR:



Neil Henderson
Senior Systems Engineer
Veeam Software

SPEAKERS:



Jake Stampfli
Information Security Manager
Viejas Casino Resort



Salvador Salcedo
Director of Information Technology
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians

Wednesday, June 11

10:00 - 10:45 AM

Managing Public Health Crises: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Public health crises demand swift, coordinated action. This panel explores strategies for early detection, response, and recovery, highlighting collaboration across agencies and lessons from past emergencies. Attendees will gain insights to improve preparedness and build community resilience.

MODERATOR:



Dr. Read Sulik
Founder/Chief Executive Officer
Portages Health

SPEAKERS:

Paul Mesa
Deputy Director of Emergency Management
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona



Thomas Nash
Deputy Director of Emergency Management
MHA Nation

10:45 - 11:15 AM

Morning Networking Break

Wednesday, June 11

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

Preparation and Response to a Disaster

Effective disaster preparation and response reduce impact. This panel covers risk assessment, planning, resource coordination, and resilience. Experts will share best practices and lessons from real-world events to help communities strengthen readiness and response.

MODERATOR:



Sheryl Sterlng
Senior Director of Presales
Omnigo Software

SPEAKERS:



Brian Hunt
Security Director
Twin Pine Casino



Scott Briley
Account Executive
HCI Energy

Wednesday, June 11

12:15 - 1:15 PM

Networking Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 PM

Enhancing Community Resilience through Hazard Mitigation

Hazard mitigation is key to reducing disaster risks and building community resilience. This panel will cover strategies for identifying hazards, assessing vulnerabilities, and implementing effective mitigation measures. Experts will discuss successful projects, funding options, and how to integrate mitigation into planning. Attendees will gain practical insights and tools to strengthen their hazard mitigation efforts and protect their communities.

MODERATOR:



Beverly Santicola
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Center for Rural Outreach and Public Services, Inc.

SPEAKERS:



Steven Gomez
Chief Physical Security Officer
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation



Sharen Sandoval
Director
Navajo Department of Emergency Management



Dan Martinez
Emergency Manager
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Wednesday, June 11

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Harnessing Technology and AI in Emergency Management

From AI and predictive analytics to drones and GIS mapping, technology is transforming emergency management. This panel explores how emerging tools enhance situational awareness, speed response, and improve coordination. Panelists will share real-world examples from tribal and rural communities while addressing the opportunities and limitations of AI in crisis situations.

MODERATOR:



Matthew Carrier
Vice President of Sales
eConnect

SPEAKERS:



David Cook
Senior Director
Fort Sill Apache Gaming Commission



Clint Johnson
Executive Director of Public Safety
Chumash Enterprises



Rob Hoadley
Senior Business Development Manager
TeamLife

Wednesday, June 11

3:15 - 4:15 PM

Optimizing Emergency Communication: Leveraging EAS, PAWS, and Mass Notification Systems

Clear, timely communication is vital in emergencies. This session explores how tools like EAS, PAWS, and other advanced systems are enhancing public safety. Panelists will share best practices for message delivery, system integration, and coordination across teams—especially in tribal communities and high-traffic venues. Learn strategies to improve situational awareness and reach the right people fast.

MODERATOR:



Sheryl Sterlng
Senior Director of Presales
Omnigo Software

SPEAKERS:



Josh Keliikoa
Public Safety Manager
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians



Deanna Garcia
Emergency Communication Coordinator
Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona

Wednesday, June 11

4:15 - 4:30 PM

EXHIBIT RAFFLE DRAWING

- **Winners Must Be Present To Win**

4:30 PM

Tribal Emergency Management Conference Concludes