

Decision FlowChart

Water Sector Emergency Response for Tribes



Utility Preparation

1

Update utility
Emergency
Response Plan
(annually and after
any incident)

2

Integrate utility ERP
into tribal
emergency
management,
meet and exercise
together

3

Join local tribal or
State (as appropriate)
WARN, stay up to
date on
agreements,
planning, contact
lists

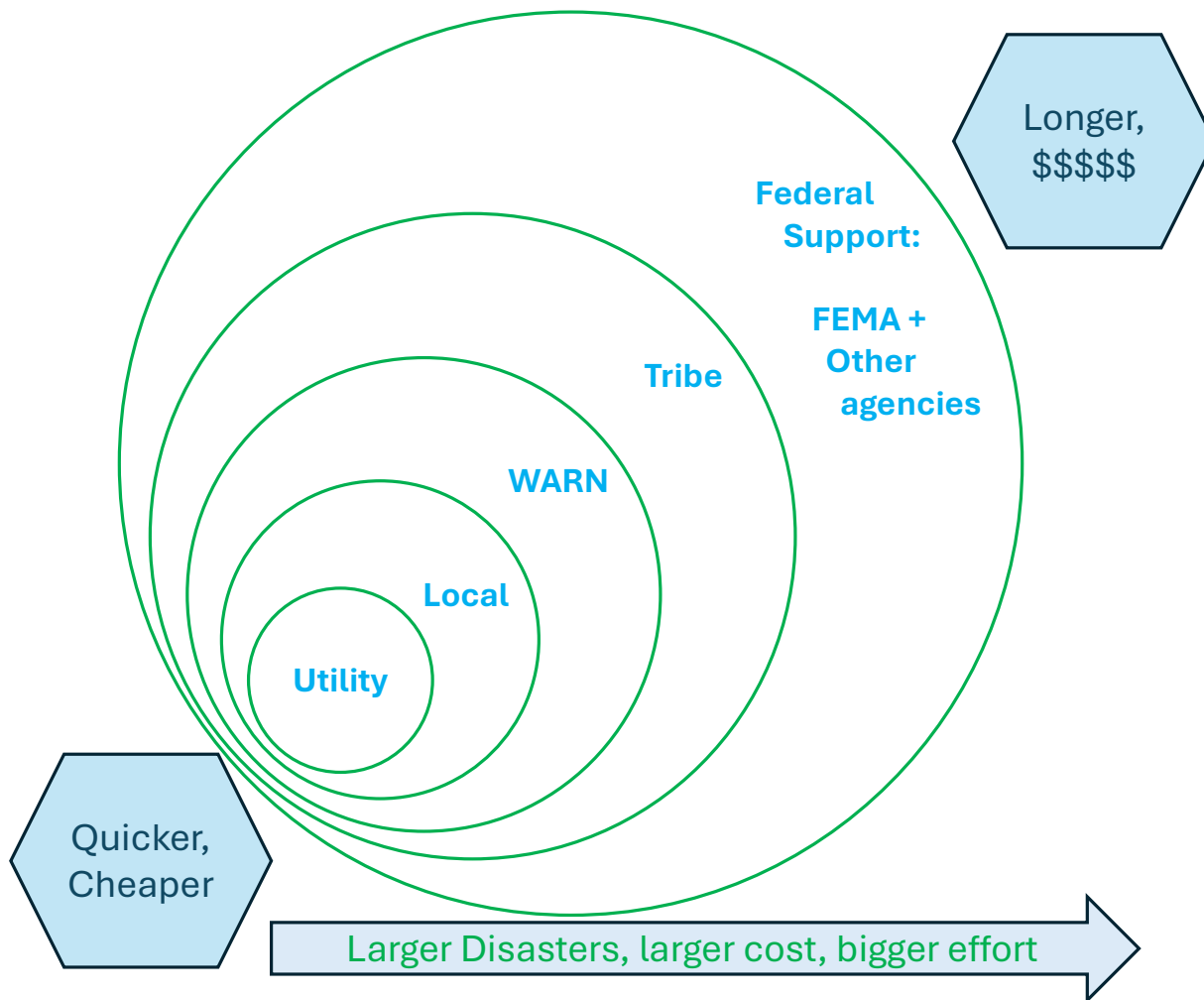
4

Exercise the ERP,
integrate local
responders (public
works, fire, police,
medical)

5

Plan with critical
customers, be
ready to coordinate
services during
emergencies
(hospitals, shelters,
etc.)

Hierarchy of Response

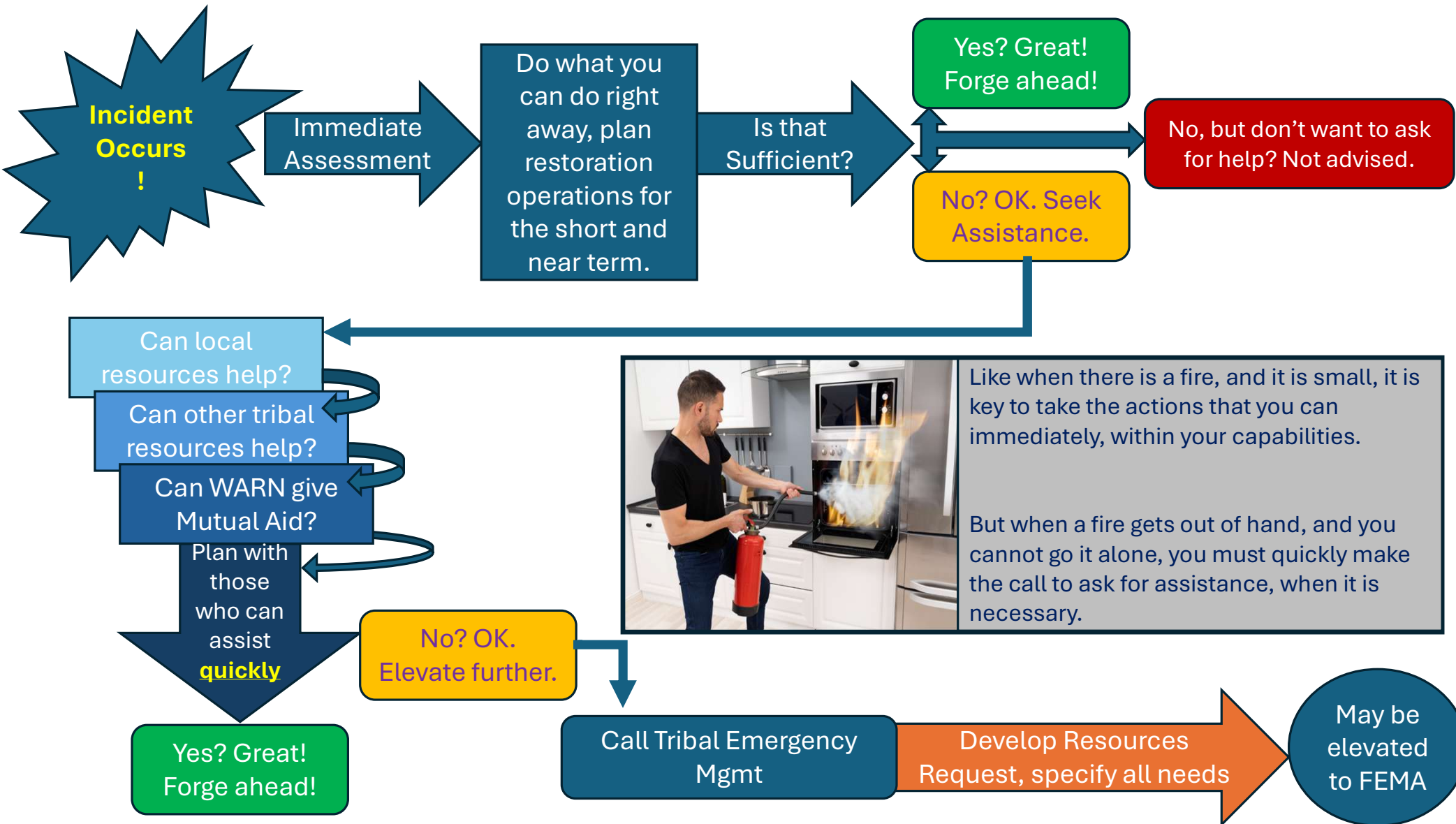


The ideal response is within the capacity of the utility to resolve on their own, within their normal budget, using their existing staff and other resources.

Disaster response only goes up the chain due to need. At each level, if the capacity can meet the need, then that is the best response.

Should the disaster exceed all utility, local, WARN, tribe capacities, then a federal response is the last to be called.

At every level, it is important to be ready to participate smoothly with all entities activated to respond.



Put it another way...

- When it is a small incident, utility staff and management should focus on being self-sufficient, **do the things they know and can do quickly to restore function.**
- When it is beyond that... **act quickly to make the call!**
- When it is bigger than can be quickly resolved, utility staff and management **MUST shift focus to asking for assistance, managing the disaster response process and collaborating with responders.**

Plan Operations to respond, stabilize and reach the recovery phase

On your own, with your staff and management:

Conduct your Response Operations,
Follow your ERP,
Establish Public Info Flow,
Communicate with Partners,
Report on Status,
Stabilize Services,
Transition to Recovery

With Support from Other Tribal Resources and/or WARN:

Coordinate your Response Operations,
Follow Incident Command System (ICS),
Dedicate Management to Coordinate Support
Establish Public Info Flow,
Communicate with Partners,
Report on Status,
Stabilize Services,
Transition to Recovery

With Support from Federal Resources:

Establish Water Taskforce,
Determine Incident Command System (ICS) Structure (Unified Command, etc.),
Dedicate Management to Coordinate Support
Agree to Share Management of Operations
Utilize Public Information Team,
Communicate with Partners,
Report on Status,
Stabilize Services,
Transition to Recovery

Put it yet another way...

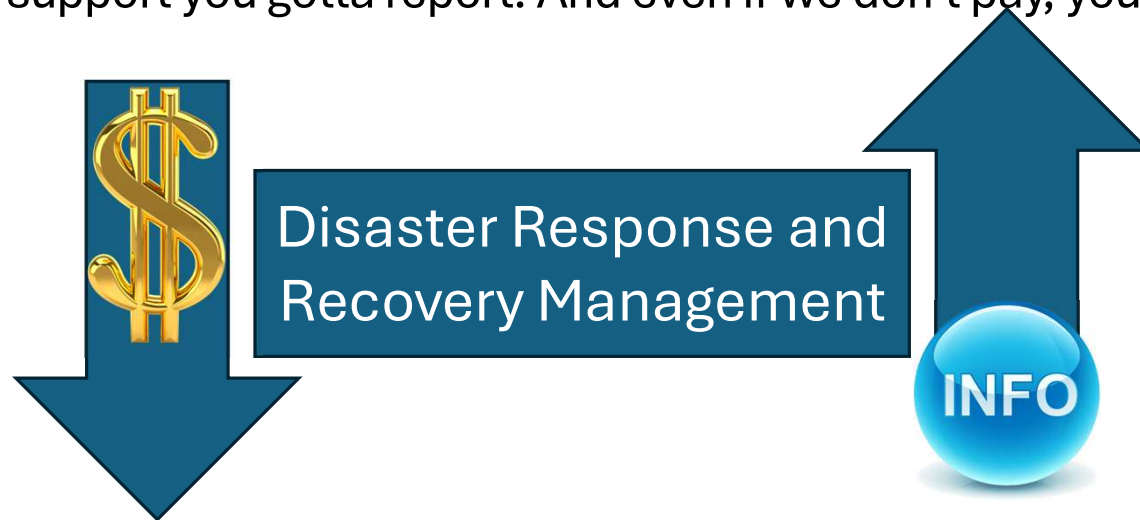
- For all the things a utility normally does and is normally staffed to do... do those things.
- When the incident exceeds that:
 - Utilities must adapt rapidly to incorporating outside resources and supporting a larger response than their normal staffing could sustain.
 - Be ready for that.

FEMA Tribal Declaration Process

- Tribal Chairs may request a federal declaration through FEMA
- The law changed in **2013** when Congress passed the Hurricane Sandy Recovery Improvement Act.
- **Key Details**
 - **The Law:** The Act amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
 - **The Change:** It gave federally recognized Tribal Nations the legal authority to request an emergency or major disaster declaration directly from the U.S. President.
 - **Prior Rule:** Before this change, tribal leaders had to submit their disaster requests through the governor of their state.

Information and Funding Flow

If you want the support you gotta report! And even if we don't pay, you still gotta say!



Is it really that simple? That transactional? Well... YES!
But is that not easy to understand? Information is critical to know what is wrong, how bad is it, how is it going, when will it be complete?
The agencies and people assisting must be able to report that the efforts have been successful and that taxpayer dollars were well spent.

Assign someone to communicate. Daily!

- It does not have to be a full-time task.
- Information must be up to date, accurate and complete.
- Will need to work with the recipient(s) to adjust the content and format and may need to make a report by a specific time every day.
- Be available to answer questions and clarify information.
- You can expect reporting to take them from 15-30 min each day, plus the time to obtain the information from the field and management.
- **GOAL: A single source of information meet everyone's needs, same time each day.**
 - To that end: When different agencies/entities ask for you to report to them, add them to the distribution of your one single reporting product. It could be a website, a situation report, a table of data, but it should be singular. You can adjust it to meet specific requests, but ideally it is just one daily product that satisfies all!

Recovery – The long-term Improvements

- While the response is happening, we should be working together to shape the requests and needs for Recovery.
- Resiliency Projects – FEMA will pay to restore to pre-disaster state (plus code updates), but sometimes Congress appropriates recovery funds to improve for resiliency
- Allowing for the priority actions to take priority... keep in mind the long-term, collect information and good ideas for how you might rebuild back better and more resilient. Track cost estimates!