

The Native American Emergency Response of Oregon (NAERO) recognizes a critical need for enhanced emergency preparedness within the greater Portland area, especially within the Native American community. Currently, there isn't a readily available plan designed to assist this community from the initial stages of preparing for a disaster through recovery. Living in the Pacific Northwest means we must focus on "when" disasters will occur, not "if". NAERO's mission is to empower the Native American community by facilitating the creation of a comprehensive emergency plan. We aim to establish emergency aid stations and operations centers throughout the Portland area, staffed by individuals and agencies capable of providing aid and assistance. We are confident that this can be achieved, allowing our people to navigate emergencies safely and recover quickly. The devastation of Hurricane Katrina serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of proactive preparedness.

NAERO's approach to enhancing emergency preparedness in the urban Native community of Portland involves:

- Identifying potential hazards in the Portland area.
- Determining ideal locations for aid stations.
- Recruiting and supporting individuals and agencies to manage these stations.
- Specifying the necessary resources for these stations.
- Engaging volunteers.
- Defining NAERO's role in facilitating this process.

NAERO is committed to proactive planning to avoid tragic consequences. The organization feels responsible for helping urban Native communities establish comprehensive emergency protocols. This is achievable with shared effort and careful financial management. NAERO is ready to collaborate closely with communities, sharing both the burden and the responsibility of implementing these vital plans. This initiative is driven by the principle that great responsibility accompanies the pursuit of preparedness and community well-being.

NAERO believes in empowering Native American tribes, establishments, and individuals to maintain their sovereignty by ensuring they have complete control over their emergency plans and aid stations. We do not seek to take control, but rather to provide the support needed to create and sustain these plans, enabling communities to survive and recover effectively during emergencies.