

PRESS RELEASE

BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

CONTACT:

Phillip Fowler, Public Information Officer
50 Tu Su Lane
Bishop, California 93514
(760) 873-3584 ext. 1400
email: phil.fowler@bishoppaiute.org



Bishop Paiute Tribe Declares State of Emergency *Tribal Council Activates Emergency Response Plan*

Bishop Paiute Tribal Council, in its capacity as the official governing body of the Tribe and pursuant to its inherent sovereignty, finds it necessary to declare a State of Emergency effective Tuesday, March 17th 2020 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the Bishop Paiute Reservation.

This puts into place Bishop Paiute Tribe's Emergency Action Response Plan to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and delegates authority to the Tribal Administrator, Public Works Director and Chief of the Police to utilize Bishop Paiute Tribal Council's resources, including personnel and equipment to mitigate the effects of this COVID-19 emergency for the protection of the Bishop Paiute Tribe's membership, and the public on the Bishop Paiute Reservation.

Experts anticipate that while a high percentage of individuals affected by COVID-19 will experience mild flu-like symptoms, some will have more serious symptoms and require hospitalization, particularly individuals who are elderly, those with compromised immune systems, or those who already have underlying chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, obesity and lung disease.

It is imperative for the Tribe to prepare for and respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases within the Bishop Paiute Reservation and surrounding areas, to implement measures to protect the public health and slow the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare to respond to an increasing number of individuals requiring medical care and hospitalization.

If COVID-19 spreads onto the Bishop Paiute Reservation at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other local jurisdictions within the State of California, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed locally available resources, and controlling outbreaks minimizes the risks to the public, maintains the health and safety of the people of the Bishop Paiute Tribe, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system.

Updates will be available to the public as they occur on KBPT-LP 96.1fm at the top of the hour for breaking information and at 8am, 11am, 6pm and 11pm for cumulative information.

The Bishop Paiute Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on its 879 acre Bishop Paiute Reservation in Inyo County, California. The Reservation was formed under Congressional Act 5299, P.L. No. 43 of April 20, 1937. The Tribe is committed to the well being of its people. For more information please contact the Bishop Paiute Tribe at (760) 873-3584.

###

PAIUTE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING • 50 TU SU LANE • BISHOP, CA 93514
PHONE (760) 873-3584 • FAX (760) 873-4143

