



VOAD VOICE



A 501(c) 3 nonprofit serving Indian Country for more than 25 years, Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) is recognized as a first responder for the reservations and a proactive member of VOAD.

PWNA is a member of the National VOAD coalition “where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle” to support disaster relief and mitigation. This national VOAD coalition includes about 50 reputable organizations, 55 state or territory VOADs, and other members.

Additionally, PWNA is active in three state VOAD groups, including South Dakota, Montana and Arizona. PWNA is further recognized as an honorary member of the Mountain West VOAD serving Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico. All of these states are home to many of the 60 reservations PWNA serves year-round.

PWNA is making life better on the reservations by supporting immediate impact as well as long-term solutions for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities. Focusing on the most remote and geographically-isolated Native communities with limited access to resources and opportunities – more than 300 – PWNA collaborates with reservation-based programs to address their self-determined priorities and support their community-driven efforts toward lasting change. This spans a range of concerns related to food security, education, health and holiday support, animal welfare and emergency relief.

It is through these community partnerships that PWNA has become known as a first responder

for the reservations and often the first resource called when disaster strikes in Native communities. PWNA’s relationships with Indian Country, its distribution and logistics system, and its VOAD relationships support effective and immediate emergency response for tribal communities. PWNA also connects outside resources directly to the reservations and often coordinates its emergency response with VOAD members, other nonprofits, and corporations.

The North Central Division of the American Red Cross is also partnering with PWNA to enhance emergency preparedness on the reservations. Support from the American Red Cross, and from the Cargill Foundation, is enabling PWNA to support emergency preparedness planning, CPR and emergency training with several remote tribal communities in South Dakota.

Often, tribal communities experience slow disaster response from outside sources during blizzards, floods, hurricanes and other conditions that only increase the need for disaster preparedness and disaster relief. In part, this is due to low media coverage of events on remote reservations. This makes disaster planning and tribal disaster readiness all the more critical.

When requested, PWNA responds to disasters in its 12-state service area, and evaluates requests from tribes beyond its service area on a case by case basis. Call PWNA in South Dakota at 605.399.9905 or visit www.nativepartnership.org/disasterrelief to learn more.



South Dakota
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION