



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

May 12, 2017

Vulnerable Populations Recovery Resources (Food)

The Office of Emergency Management (“OEM”) recognizes that the power outage that occurred on the main reservation of the Tohono O’odham Nation, beginning Monday, May 8, 2017 at approximately 9:12 P.M. and ending on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at approximately 7:11 P.M., caused a substantial hardship for the people who live and work in the affected area, particularly for those households that may have limited resources or who rely on assistance programs. In an effort to assist with recovery, the OEM provides the following information for individuals that may be eligible for assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) or the Tribal Food Distribution Program:

SNAP Recipients: OEM has communicated with the Arizona Department of Economic Security (“D.E.S”) and has identified that SNAP recipients that reside on the Nation’s main reservation and were therefore affected by the extended power outage may qualify for *Replacement of Issuance Benefits- Food Destroyed by Misfortune* or related assistance.

In order to submit a claim the Primary Individual (qualifying recipient of benefits) will need the following:

1. Letter from the Nation’s Executive Office (attached to this PSA). This letter has also been sent to the Sells D.E.S. Office. You may also pick-up a copy of this letter from your District Office. If you prefer to go to another D.E.S. Office, you will need to take a copy of this letter with you to file a claim.
2. Letter from TOUA (attached to this PSA). This letter has also been sent to the Sells D.E.S. Office. You may also pick-up a copy of this letter from your District Office. If you prefer to go to another D.E.S. Office, you will need to take a copy of this letter with you to file a claim.
3. Primary Individual will need to write a letter on the impact and loss of food.
4. Primary Individual will need have a list of items that were lost due to the power outage.
5. Primary Individual will need to file the claim for processing within 10 days of the incident.
6. The hours for the Sells D.E.S. Office are:
Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) - Family Assistance Program (Sells):
Monday-Friday Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed Weekends and State Holidays
(520)383-2631 or 1-855-432-7587 (24-hr. line)

Food Distribution Recipients: Households must request replacement of foods destroyed due to household misfortune within 10 days of the date of loss. A written request must include a statement by the household that its foods have been destroyed, describing the misfortune (i.e. extended power outage), and its impact on the foods received. Such request must be signed and dated by an adult member of the household or the household’s designated authorized representative. Oral requests may be appropriate if the household is unable to come to the

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office. However, before replacement benefits are issued, the household must formalize the request in writing per the above requirements within 10 days of making the oral request. You may contact Lorna Patricio, Program Supervisor at (520) 383-6275.

Social Security Recipients: Unfortunately, Social Security does not offer any emergency food assistance due to misfortune.