

# Montana

## “Big Sky Country”

Working with our First Nations to  
prepare for all hazards disasters

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Montana DPHHS

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# Approach

- Contracts in place with all 7 land based reservations for public health emergency preparedness funding
- Recognize sovereignty, but fund in the same manner as counties (base amount, plus additional based on on-reservation census data)



# Reception

- At first onset of this project, the process of negotiating contracts was cumbersome
- Once contracts in place, and point of contact designated, tribes work toward performance based tasks which are based on focus area objectives to enhance public health emergency preparedness



# Challenges

- Changes in personnel greater with tribes than with counties
- Some tribes contracted for a single individual to complete “deliverables” work which secured payment for deliverable, but did not build infrastructure or promote long term sustainability
- Lack of clarity regarding surveillance and reporting between IHS and tribal health



# Accomplishments

- Two Cross Border Terrorism Preparedness conferences in 2004
- Significant Native American tracks in each of the conferences
- Accentuating tribal culture in opening and intermittent ceremonies
- Native American theme dinner
- Highlighted “Shadow Wolves”



# Accomplishments cont'd.

- Inter-weaving on Native American tradition throughout conference
- Reaching across border with invitations to Canadian First Nations
- Native American Roundtable to discuss issues specific to their preparedness efforts



# Collaboration

- First Nations Subcommittee of the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force (meets monthly via teleconference, with several face to face working groups throughout the year)
- Shadow Wolves brought to Montana to highlight Native American work in border protection



# Collaboration cont'd.

- Discussions between Shadow Wolves and Blackfeet Nation regarding expanding to Northern border (US/Canada)
- Technical Assistance contracted by DPHHS to assist tribes in completion of deliverables and advancement of preparedness planning efforts



# Planned Activities

- On-site visits to each reservation to work with tribal health and IHS to better clarify roles with regard to communicable disease surveillance and reporting
- Offer assistance to tribes in development or refinement of tribal code as it relates to public health emergency preparedness activities and responsibilities



# Contact Information

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