



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
MITIGATION - PREPAREDNESS - RESPONSE - RECOVERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 04, 2022

Contact: MHA Emergency Operations Center

Phone: 701-627-7300

Website:

<https://www.mhanation.com/emergency-operations-center>

Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation awarded \$1.2 Million from the FEMA/DHS Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program

[NEW TOWN, ND April 04, 2022] – The MHA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is leading the implementation of the 3-year \$1.2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program awarded to the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation/Three Affiliated Tribes in late 2021.

The MHA Emergency Operations Center applied for the FY 2021 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program in order to proactively address the necessity to enhance the capability of MHA Nation to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to active shooter threats, domestic terrorism threats, and cyberattack incidents.

“It is imperative that effective coordination and communication with senior officials, critical infrastructure departments, local emergency services, tribal employees, and other stakeholders involved be maintained consistently in order to keep the risk and vulnerability of all hazards occurring in the workplace and out in other public settings as low as possible. Teamwork and utilizing all resources available to us like this grant will ensure that all tribal employees and guests occupying our tribal owned facilities will have a safe and secure environment to work in, and be equipped with the knowledge of how to respond appropriately should a threat ever occur.” -MHA Emergency Operations Center Director, Emily Sitting Bear.

Through this grant funding, the following objectives over the next three years will be achieved to increase overall long-term safety and security for tribal employees and guests:

- MHA Nation's Critical Infrastructure will have fully operational, modern quality surveillance systems, public address systems, and physical exterior

and interior access controls against potential terrorist activities for tribal owned facilities.

- MHA Nation will have the implementation of Cybersecurity response plans and protocols and upgrades in protection of current and future systems.
- Tribal Security Officers will complete Crisis Intervention/Escalation Training and hold regular exercises to improve their skillsets and qualifications.
- FBIR First Responders will complete annual full-scale active shooter exercises to enhance preparedness and response to potential active shooter and terrorism incidents.
- Tribal Employees will complete de-escalation, active shooter, terrorism, cybersecurity, and other safety training.

Mark Fox, Chairman of the MHA Nation, acknowledged, “The safety and security of our Nation and workplace is vital. We look forward to the implementation of this grant funding to further enhance and improve our security measures.”

The FEMA and DHS Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program provides \$15 million to eligible tribal nations to implement preparedness initiatives to help strengthen the nation against risk associated with potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.

MHA Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The mission of the MHA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is to create and maintain the comprehensive framework that will reduce the overall vulnerability of communities and government infrastructure on the Fort Berthold Reservation by coordinating and integrating all activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the capability to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters.

For more information, please visit our webpage:

<https://www.mhanation.com/emergency-operations-center> and our Facebook Page @mhanationeoc: <https://www.facebook.com/mhanationeoc>

**For media inquiries, please contact MHA EOC Disaster Recovery Grants Specialist/
Public Affairs Specialist, Nyamka Reese at 701-627-7300, or
nreese@mhanation.com.**