

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

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January 12, 2024

PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Declares a "State of Emergency," due to the Extreme Winter Weather Activity.

WHEREAS: The week of January 8, 2024 saw a combination of extreme winter weather affecting the entirety of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Service Delivery Area. Multiple snow events, combined with strong winds, low temperatures, and dangerous wind chills have impacted Tribal properties, services, and members. This dangerous winter event has disrupted Tribal operations and impacted our membership, directly affecting the Ponca Nation.

WHEREAS: These severe winter weather events have affected major roadways, buffalo herd management, member heating and food security. Due to the severe weather events, the Tribe was forced to close medical facilities and limit/cancel public transportations, including our economic and business enterprises, resulting in a disruption of services and revenue.

WHEREAS: The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Tribal Council and staff have received emergency phone calls from members unable to leave their homes, heating units failing, frozen water lines, and those seeking shelter or needing immediate basic essentials.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska under Section 3 of Article X of the Ponca Constitution, Section 1 of Article V of the Ponca Constitution, Title VIII Section 8-1-2 of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Code, and the Emergency Management Plan of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska:

I HEREBY proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the Service Delivery Area of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska as defined by the Ponca Restoration Act, Public Law 101-484, Oct. 31, 1990, and all amendments thereto, and direct the plans and procedures of the Tribe's Emergency Management Plan be implemented. Tribal agencies and departments are directed to utilize Tribal resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected Service Delivery Areas and Tribally-owned businesses in an effort to respond to and recover from the severe weather event.

I FURTHER REQUEST State and Federal agencies to cooperate with and support the Tribe upon its request, as may be appropriate and lawful.

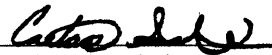
I HEREBY activate the Emergency Management Plan of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and declare this to be a Level 2 Emergency pursuant to the Plan.

I HEREBY direct all Tribal Departments to take such steps as they deem necessary to meet these emergencies, and to continue these actions until such time as the threats to life and property created by these situations have been alleviated.

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE the Executive Staff of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to activate such elements of the Tribe's Emergency Management resources as are appropriate to deal with this emergency and to expend such funds, within the limitations of availability, from the Tribe's General Fund to support these actions.

This Declaration shall take effect at 00:00 hours on January 12, 2024, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED on the 12th day of January, 2024



Candace Schmidt, Chairwoman,
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska