

Chinle woman recovered in aftermath of flood, Navajo Police conclude search

Written by Rick Abasta, Press Officer Office of the President and Vice President
Friday, 07 August 2015 03:51



CHINLE, Ariz.—A person who was swept away during flooding in Chinle on August 2 was found.

Jesse Delmar, executive director of Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, said a female individual was swept away while inside her vehicle during flash flooding last night. The body was recovered earlier today.

“The female individual was recovered. We are concluding the search and rescue,” Delmar said. “Please be safe out there, don’t attempt to cross flooded areas.

He thanked division personnel, Arizona Department of Public Safety and community members who helped in the rescue and recovery efforts.

The helicopter crew from ADPS evacuated nine people from Canyon de Chelly, in addition to providing air support for the search and rescue.

More than two inches of hailstorm was reported. Canyon de Chelly and the main community were flooded, including schools and several public buildings.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye urged the public to be careful when traveling through flooded areas.

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“The Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety is working with other resources to ensure Navajo residents are safe in the aftermath of the storm,” he said. “The nation is being blessed with a lot of moisture, but that also comes with flash floods. The public needs to respect Mother Nature and not take any chances, especially with floods.”