A message from the Chief Executive Officer

Derek Valdo

Guuwaadzi’ Haubaa! (Greetings)

AMERIND Risk is continually evolving and growing to meet your needs. Most recently, we expanded our Native American Homeowners and Renters optional coverages to give members the opportunity to insure specific areas of risk. I hope our underwriting team’s explanation of those new coverages, deductible options, and flexible limits sheds light on how you can customize your homeowner’s or renter’s policy to your unique preferences.

As the seasons change, we at AMERIND Risk are shifting gears in other ways as well. This fall, we are honing our focus on emergency preparedness.

Sometimes, it can feel easier to turn a blind eye to the possibility of a natural disaster devastating our lands, our communities and our homes. It takes courage to prepare for the worst. It is our responsibility as protectors of Indian Country to defend Native lives and homes.

September is National Preparedness Month. Though autumn’s foliage change is stunning, the cooler weather also ushers in severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes. Fire Prevention Week is observed nationally October 8-14. Global warming continues to fuel the threat of wildfires into fall. Additionally, it’s a good time to refresh your knowledge of preventing kitchen and electrical fires (published in our ALARM 2017 Q2, Issue 10).

In honor of National Preparedness Month and our commitment to protecting Indian Country, AMERIND Risk urges every family and individual to create emergency communication, shelter and evacuation plans. For a streamlined approach, we offer Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) recommendations.

Mapping out escape routes and participating in evacuation drills may sound daunting. However, the process can actually prove empowering and even fun for families and households. In addition, parents are teaching their kids the importance of safety through example and collaboration.

Thank you for your trust in AMERIND Risk, and for having the courage to lead preparedness strategies within your families, communities and Tribes.

Sincerely,

Derek Valdo
CEO
Disaster Preparedness

Indian Country knows all too well the devastating impact a natural or man-made disaster can have on a family and community. Here are some preparedness tips:

- Make a family emergency communication plan and include pets.
- Keep an emergency kit wherever you spend time: home, car, work, etc.
- Listen to local officials by radio, TV, or social media, and take action.
- Practice your preparedness plans with a drill or exercise.

For more in-depth information on National Preparedness Month, visit ready.gov/september or amerindrisk.org/safety-resources/.

Plan Two Ways Out!

Fire Prevention Week is observed October 8-14. In a fire, seconds can mean the difference between a Tribal citizen escaping safely from a fire or losing their life. That's why this year’s Fire Prevention Week theme: "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out!" is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan.

Tips to keep your family, home and belongings safe:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

What to Pack in Your Emergency Kit

Pack an emergency kit and let everyone in the family know where it’s located. A partial list of essentials:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Flashlight

Find more information at amerindrisk.org/safetytraining.