

# Resilience Through Disaster Preparedness

Kevin Meeks

Deputy Secretary of Health

Chickasaw Nation



# RESILIENCY IS IN OUR DNA

The Chickasaw Nation treaty territory covers 7,648 square miles and encompasses 13 counties in South Central Oklahoma.

The Chickasaw Nation has faced and overcome numerous challenges, from forced relocation during the Trail of Tears to modern economic and environmental crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, always emerging unconquered and unconquerable







# Mission of the Chickasaw Nation

*To enhance the overall quality  
of life of the Chickasaw People.*



## THE CHICKASAW NATION

- Constitutional government
- Three branches - Executive, Legislative, Judicial
- 10 Departments in the Executive Branch, each with its own secretary
- The Chickasaw Nation Division of Emergency Management is housed in the Department of Interior Services

# COORDINATING EFFORTS IN EMERGENCIES/ DISASTERS

➤ In health emergencies, such as the Covid response, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health takes the lead on behalf of the Nation. For example, during the Covid response we:

- Administered in excess of 83,000 vaccinations
- Provided over 106,000 Covid tests
- Saw patients from 38 states, referred and received patients needing hospitalization, expanded our focus beyond serving only First Americans to include anyone, and more.
- Converted an existing structure into a major testing facility with eight drive through lanes providing testing services to anyone in need.
- Established temporary testing/vaccination services at casinos and other location throughout the Nation.

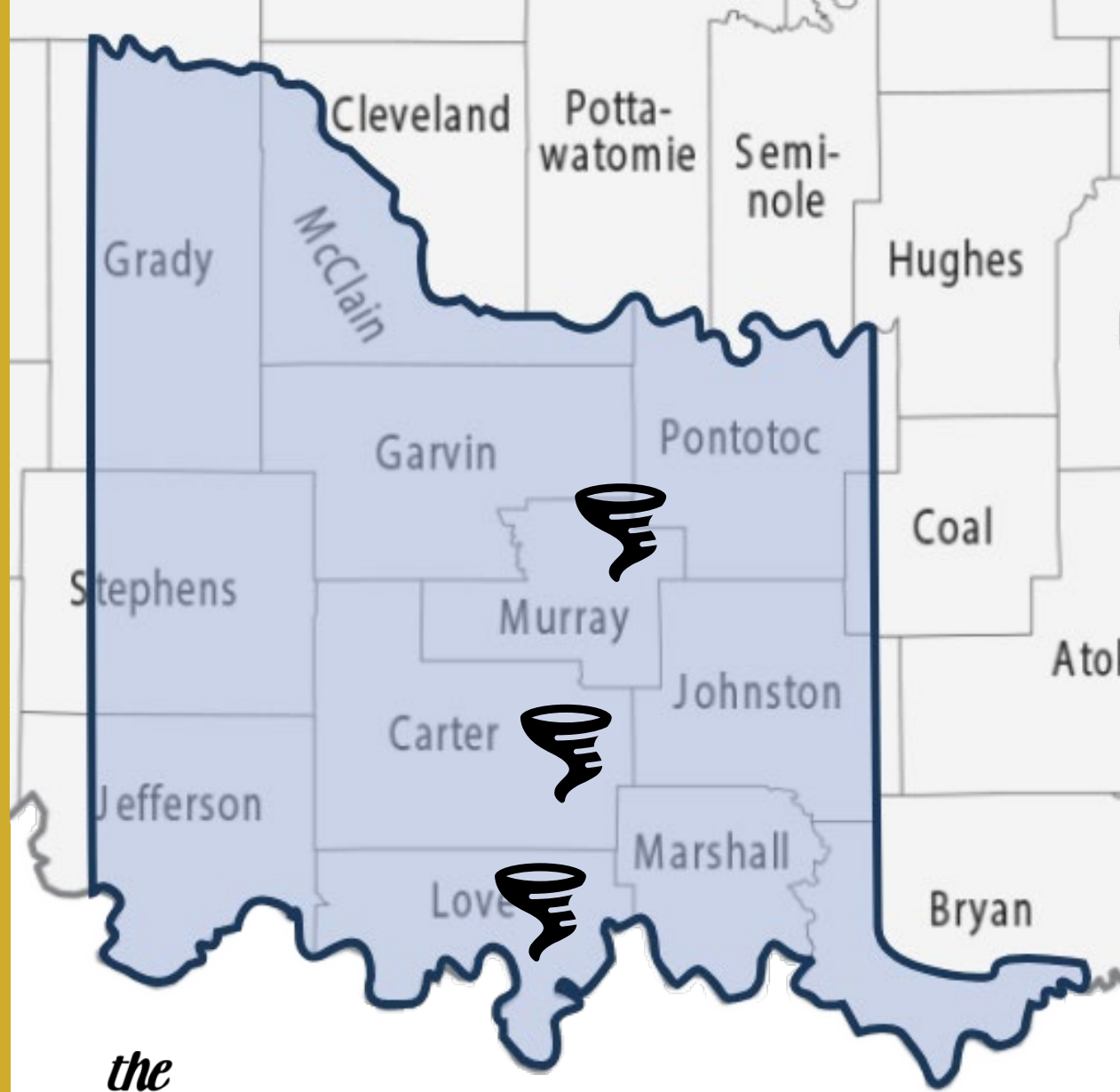
# CHICKASAW NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CNEM)

- Chickasaw Nation Emergency Management (CNEM) was established July 31, 2017, with the goal to provide a comprehensive and integrated system to help save lives, prevent injuries, protect property and preserve the Chickasaw Nation's invaluable cultural and economic resources in the event of a major emergency or disaster.
- Unique in design, it is a "department without walls." Chickasaw coordinates with other tribal departments, surrounding jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and volunteer and community groups to help ensure all available resources and personnel are identified and coordinated during major emergency situations.
- Chickasaw utilizes NIMS, ICS, and our own Emergency Response Plan to aid in coordinating efforts during a disaster response and recovery.

# LATEST DISASTER

*April 28, 2024*

- A series of tornados hit the towns of Marietta, Ardmore, and Sulphur, Oklahoma, destroying homes, businesses, and in the case of Sulphur, the entire downtown business district was destroyed.
- The Nation immediately identified tribal citizens who were affected to provide assistance, which included clean up, temporary housing, meals/food, etc.
- Governor Anoatubby declared a state of emergency
- Implemented our Emergency Response Plan
- Offered assistance to affected communities and individuals
- Recovery assistance and coordination efforts continue







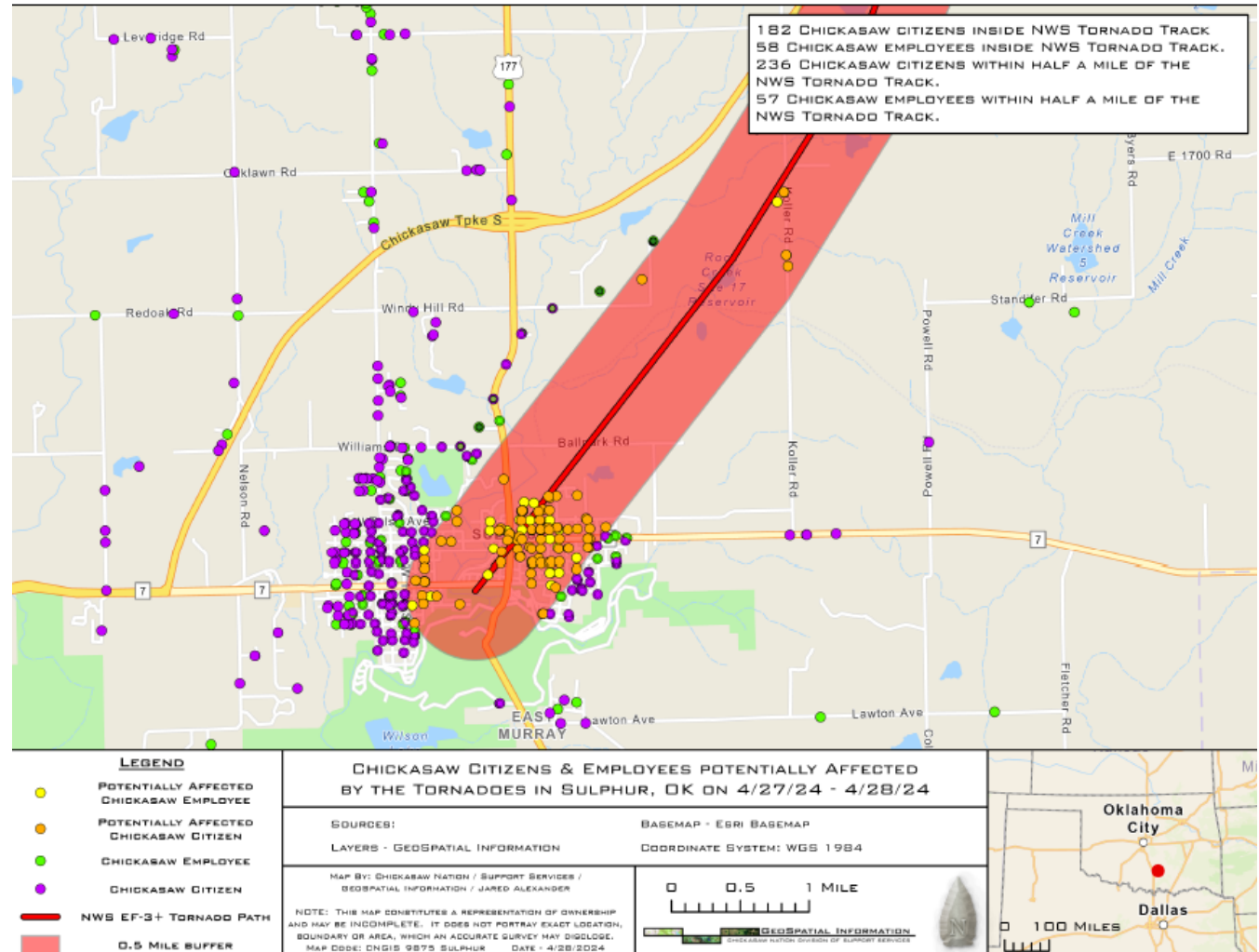






# SERVING OUR CITIZENS

- Chickasaw Nation responds to a variety of “disasters” when Chickasaw citizens are affected
- Our primary focus is on assisting Chickasaw citizens





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- General planning for this and other responses began years ago
- Planning not only included the development of written response plans and protocols, adoption of FEMA templates, understanding FEMA processes and language, establishing over 40 memoranda of understanding with various tribal, county and local entities support these efforts, but more importantly...
- Building and cultivating relationships based on mutual respect and trust, becoming a valued and contributing member of the community, and fostering collaborations with tribal, federal, state, and local governments before disaster strikes.



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT & COOPERATION

It is also important to know that while these disasters occurred within our reservation boundaries, we see ourselves as a member of the affected communities and our role is one of support and cooperation.



# QUESTIONS

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