

MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oklahoma Regional Press

Contact: Kala Rodgers, Public Information Officer
Clinton Service Unit
Work Phone: 580.331.3477
Cell Phone: 580-774-9538
Email: kala.rodgers@ihs.gov
Subject: Tornado Damage at the El Reno Indian Health Center

The Indian Health Service (IHS) El Reno Indian Healthcare Center, located at 1631-A E HWY 66 in El Reno, Oklahoma, is closed due to severe tornado damage that occurred on Friday, May 31, 2013.

Fortunately, no patient care activities were occurring at that time, and no one was injured due to the storm. However, the damage to the facility is extensive, and the health center will remain closed for an indefinite period.

During this time, patients of the El Reno Indian Healthcare Center are encouraged to seek care at the Clinton Indian Health Center, the Watonga Indian Health Center, the Oklahoma City Urban Clinic, or any other IHS or tribal healthcare facility.

The El Reno Indian Healthcare Center is administered by the IHS Clinton Service Unit. The Clinton Service unit executive leadership and senior leaders from the IHS Oklahoma City Area Office are currently assessing the damage. The assessment will identify long-term options for ensuring access to healthcare services at the El Reno Indian Healthcare Center. The El Reno Healthcare Center is the medical home to approximately 6,500 American Indian and Alaska Natives. During fiscal year 2012, over 36,000 patient visits were provided.

Status updates will be available on social media at <http://www.facebook.com/ocaihs>. Additional questions may be directed to the Clinton Service Unit CEO, CAPT Carmen Clelland, at 580-331-3300 and to the Public Information Officer, Kala Rodgers, at 580-331-3477.

Anyone experiencing psychological distress as a result of the tornados that have swept through Oklahoma can call the national toll-free Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 at any time. The Helpline, which is confidential and multilingual, can also be accessed online at <http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov/> and TTY for deaf and hearing impaired at 1-800-846-8517.