

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Contingency Plan Q & A Document
September 27, 2013

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios. The following document provides information regarding contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown.

What are Excepted and Exempted services?

In some cases, BIA has identified programs and employees that are excepted from furlough to continue working in the event of a shutdown due to the importance of their roles in protecting life and property. Some programs and employees will not be furloughed and are considered exempt because they are funded through non-lapsing sources including; revenue collection from irrigation and power projects, and federal highway multi-year appropriations.

What will happen during a lapse in appropriations when residents of Tribal communities call the police for an emergency?

The BIA Office of Justice Service law enforcement personnel who respond to emergencies or are responsible for the protection of life and property will continue to report to duty and respond those these type of incidents as well as perform crime prevention activities. Only Office of Justice Service staff who are not responsible for life and safety are subject to furlough.

What will happen if there is a fire on Indian lands?

Firefighters will be available to respond as needed.

Will the BIA continue to process financial assistance to needy individuals?

Without an appropriation and with limited financial operations, the BIA will have no authority to make payments.

Will the BIA be able respond to reports of Child Abuse and Neglect?

Yes, the social services workers will be on duty to assist law enforcement on responses to abuse and neglect.

Is there anyone I can contact if I have questions?

Please visit the DOI website at www.DOI.gov.