



# AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Update

Lisa Togia'i  
ASDHS Chief of Staff  
Grants Administrator

# AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

\*INTERPOL U.S. PACIFIC SUB  
BUREAU \* SPICIN \* FBI NCIC \*  
NLETS \* EPIC \* RISS ATIX \* NDPIX  
\* MS-ISAC CYBER SECURITY

*ASDHS created by Civil Defense Act 2008  
Effective January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

**OFFICE OF  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

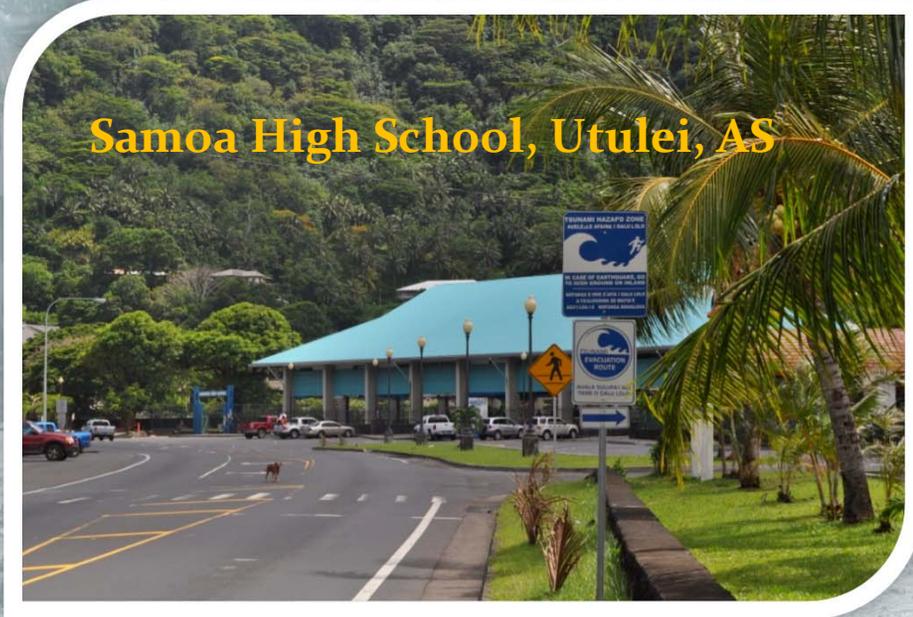
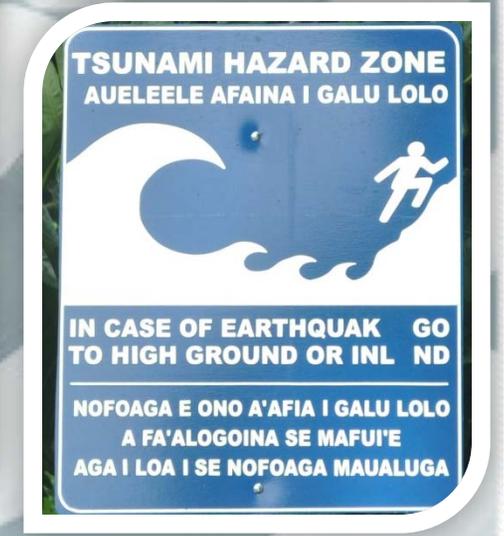
**TERRITORIAL  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT  
COORDINATING  
OFFICE (TEMCO)**

**OFFICE OF  
TERRITORIAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
CRIMINAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
AND DRUG  
ENFORCEMENT  
(OTICIDE)**

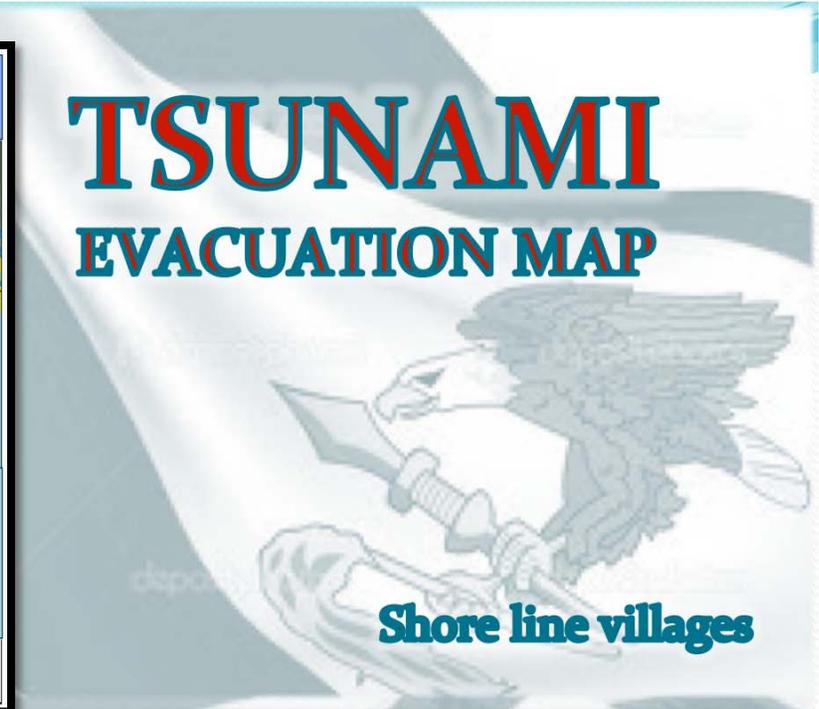
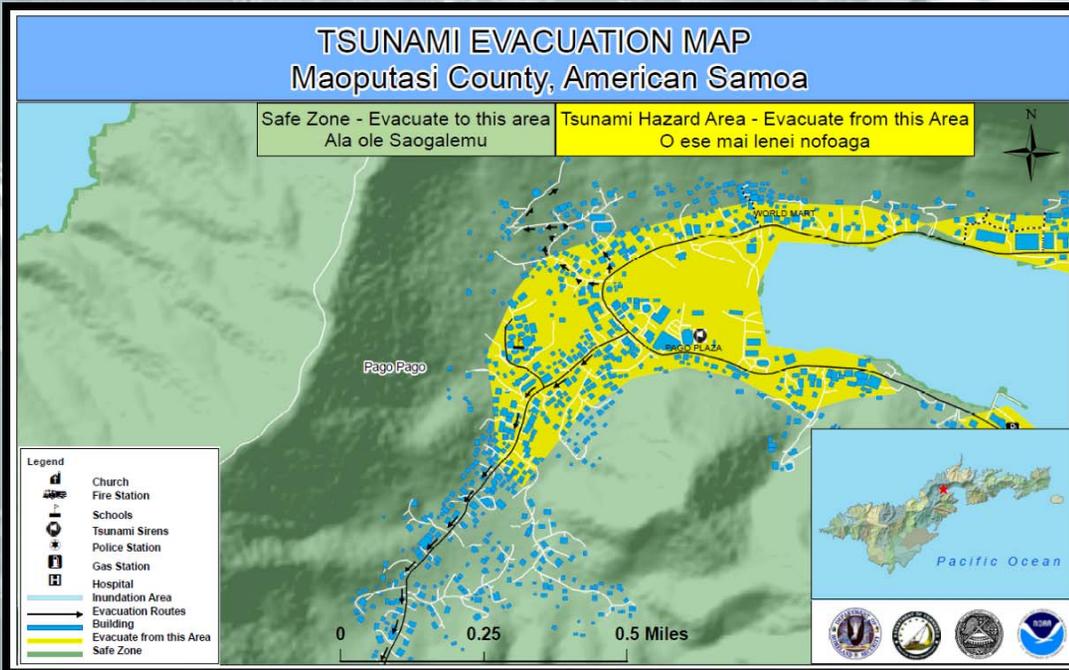
**OFFICE OF  
VITAL  
STATISTICS**

# TSUNAMI SIGNAGE

1. Bay area signage project completed
2. Bid has been awarded for “supply and install” of signs to cover entire territory with Manu’a & Aunuu
2. Work to begin within 75 days and will take 30 to 60 days to complete all island
3. Signs include Tsunami Hazard Zones, Evacuation Routes, Leaving and Entering Hazard Zone, and Evacuation Sites.

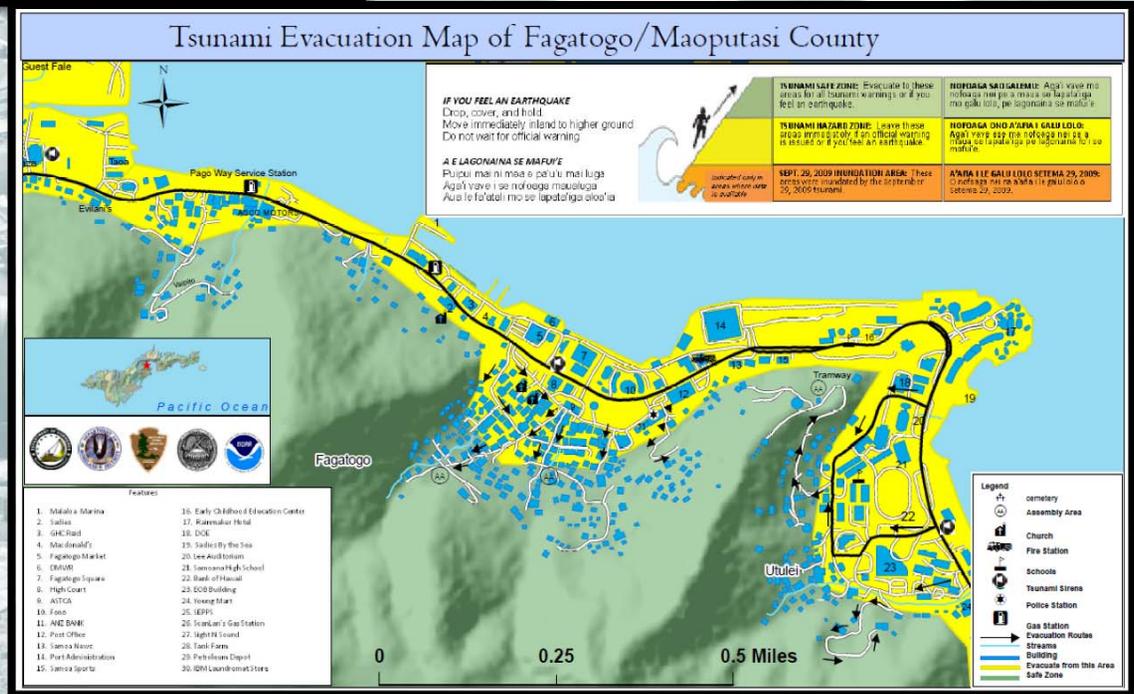


Samoa High School, Utulei, AS



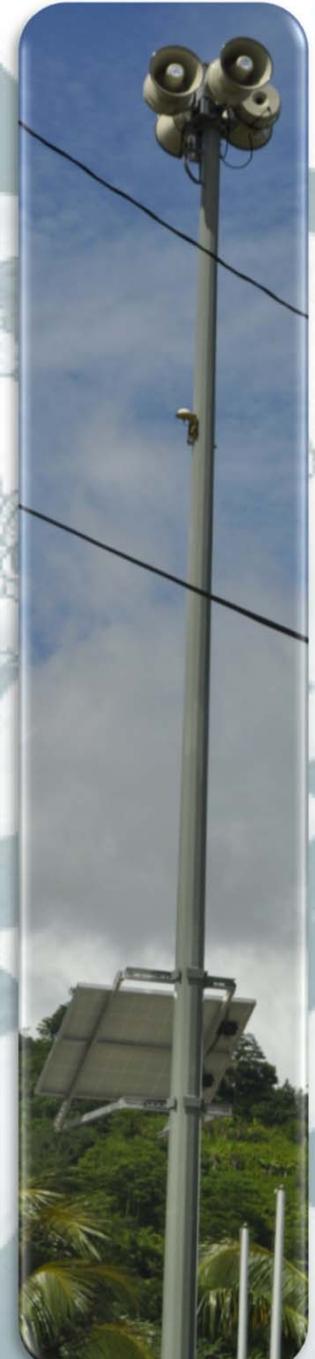
Evacuation route mapping is now 90% complete for the main island of Tutuila.

Central bay area completed, and from Leone to the end of the western district, from Lau'i'i to Onenoa, the end of the eastern district)



# EMERGENCY ALERT SIRENS

1. 46 sirens installed and commissioned September 29, 2011.
2. 2 remaining sirens due to land disputes now resolved.
3. Aunuu and Ofu sites – pending transportation coordination
4. Monthly testing announcement – every first Thursday



# NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

1. **2,000** radios received and presently being distributed.
2. Weekly radio trivia questions on tsunami preparedness offer 88 radios as prizes per week over local radio stations.
3. Radios distributed through ongoing Outreach Program.
4. Other radios distributed to village mayors, schools, church groups, tenants of commercial and public buildings, libraries, legislature.



# PUBLIC OUTREACH

1. Continuing PSAs over local radio and TV stations on disaster preparedness in 7 different languages, and periodical newspaper ads.
2. Weekly radio and TV talk show forums featuring discussions on preparedness and mitigations.
3. Partner with NOAA officials – awareness program and activities



# DRILLS & EXERCISES

1. Ongoing schedule of drills and exercises at schools, organizations, private sector, and public buildings.
2. Private sector are getting more involved in disaster drills and exercises, requesting us to monitor, assess, evaluate, and assist with pre plan and post summary report.



**Tsunami Advisory Committee (TAC) comprises of key government agencies to include NOAA/NWS. TAC comprises of local stakeholder whom were tasked to help and assist Army Corp of Engineers, FEMA (Gen Tamura) with an American Samoa Tsunami Study that would increase community resilience to the devastating effects of tsunamis in American Samoa.**

**Their RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. Emergency Planning – Continue with village preparedness, evacuation plan awareness and evacuation of commercial enterprises**
- 2. Tsunami modeling study – Study to determine inundation extents for several high magnitude tsunami scenarios.**
- 3. Radios – Prepare radio coverage analysis to identify areas where warning communication improvements are needed.**

## **NEW PTWC TSUNAMI FORECAST PRODUCTS**

**Dr. Laura Kong and Dr. Charles McCreery introduced new forecast products domestically for American Samoa and Independent Samoa.**

**Presentations were given to NOAA, ASDHS, SAMOA Meteorologist, EAS Committee and TAC. Feedback for these new products was well received as it would enhance and improve alerting public to prevent confusion and panic level of residents who feel earthquakes and self evacuate.**

**EOC is better equipped with correct information as it becomes available. Domestic product for AS is better than international one.**

## **POST TSUNAMI PROTOCOL – chaotic with scientists – Samoa Tsunami 2009**

- Even with numerous tsunami outreach, when actual tsunami hit in 2009, it was quite frustrating. We would like to thank for the assistance received, but focus was placed on the safety and recovery of life and property**
- Many scientists arrived on island and just conducted their own studies – although well meaning in every way, but we had no way of knowing they were on island to be properly guided – running around and not getting correct information from us – nor receiving summary report of findings.**
- Thank Akapo Mase of NOAA, who helped coordinated visit with scientists from Japan to our office – and also received information of their study to be used for mitigation purposes, etc. to enhance our response efforts.**