

NTHMP Warning Coordination Subcommittee Telecon – May 6, 2014 9am PDT.

**Attending:** Althea Rizzo (OR), Paul Whitmore (NTWC), Jeff Lorens (NWS WR), Christa von Hillebrandt (CTWP), Nick Kuchek (JTWG), Elton Lewis (USVI), Melinda Bailey (NWS SR), John Schelling (WA), Cindi Preller (NWS AR)

## **Agenda**

### 1 - Gregg's recommendations for TWC messages

- Chris Gregg's final report on Recommended Revisions to Warning Product Prototypes of the NWS National Tsunami Warning Center was released April 29, 2014 and provided to WCS members for review.
- Most attendees had not had time yet to review the document.
- Jeff expressed concern that the proposed recommendations could make the messages too long.
- **Action:** Whitmore will mock-up messages with the new recommendations color-coded so that the WCS can easily review the proposed changes.
- Further action will be based on review of the mocked-up messages.

### 2 - Althea update on lessons learned from LAE test in March

- Eureka WFO test of the LAE code in March not conducted due to concerns in Humboldt County.
- Testing is still expected to be conducted by Eureka WFO at a future date.
- Cindi suggested re-querying Alaska EMs with the Advisory questionnaire sent out two years ago to determine if there is a different opinion now.

### 3 - Spanish product update

- NTWC Atlantic Spanish products to convert from Experimental to Operational on May 15.
- NTWC Pacific Spanish products to be developed starting in June.
- NWS Western Region offered help in translation.
- Christa stated the Spanish verbiage used for the Atlantic messages was based on NWS precedent and should stay consistent.

### 4 - Proposed exercise scenarios for 2015

- Whitmore proposed a Kamchatka scenario for the Pacifex15 exercise to be conducted Wednesday March 25, 2015.
- According to Chip McCreery, the PacWave international exercise is expected to be conducted earlier in 2015 (February time frame). This will be separate from Pacifex.
- Christa proposed a magnitude 8.5 east of Panama for the CaribeWave/Lantex along with another east coast scenario.
- Whitmore suggested a 1929 Grand Banks-type tsunami triggered either off Maine or Florida.
- Christa suggested both Caribbean/Atlantic events be held the same day – March 25, 2015.
- **Proposed 2015 NTHMP-supported Exercises:**
  - Pacifex15: Magnitude 8.6 east of Kamchatka (northern subduction zone)
    - 8am PDT – Wednesday March 25, 2015
  - CaribeWave/Lantex15:

- Exercise 1 –Slump on the Florida Atlantic continental slope (triggered by M=6.8 earthquake)
    - 9am EDT – Wednesday March 25, 2015
  - Exercise 2 – Magnitude 8.5 east of Panama
    - 10am EDT – Wednesday March 25, 2015
- **Action:** Please respond by May 19 if you see any problems with times or scenarios. After that we will begin development of the necessary background materials.
- John and Cindi mentioned that there will be a major Cascadia tsunami and earthquake exercise in 2016 which is expected to be held in early-June. This could be our NTHMP-supported Pacific exercise as well for 2016.

#### 5 - Warning polygon definition for Wireless Emergency Alerts

- Whitmore described the NWS HQ request for higher definition polygons to better constrain where WEA messages are delivered.
- Geographic polygons with about 50 vertices can be used to provide finer control on where the WEA messages are issued.
- WCS needs to define the polygons for each NWS public zone.
  - **Action:** Whitmore will work with appropriate NWS regional staff, WCMS, and state/territory reps. to attack this on a state-by-state basis.
  - **Action:** McCreery will work with appropriate contacts in Hawaii and Pacific Territories to complete request.
- Jeff and John stated support for the idea based on previous WEA alerts.

#### 6 - Update on PR/VI warning/advisory criteria

- In accordance with discussions at the NTHMP meeting, Warning/Advisory criteria will be updated for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (US and British) for earthquakes which occur in that region.
- The warning threshold will be raised from 6.5 to 7.1.
- Advisories will be issued for events 6.5 to 7.0 based on an impact study performed at PRSN.
- **Action:** The implementation date is planned for June 16, 2014.
- Please notify Whitmore if you are impacted by this change and cannot prepare by that date.

#### 7 – Other Items

- Ideas put forth by the Complex Coast Team will be incorporated into the mock-up messages sent out for review based on the Social Science recommendations.
- Elton requested an update on the phone communications problem between NTWC and St. Croix.
  - Whitmore responded that a work order had been issued, but the problem has not yet been resolved by the phone company. Communications are ok on 3 of the 5 outbound NTWC lines.
- John requested an update on TWeb and an expected operational date.
  - No date can be provided at this time, though the TWeb group is continuing work on the project and will be visiting NTWC in May.
- Jeff requested an update on NTWC training plans.
  - COMET modules are in the process of an update.
  - In-house training at NTWC is unlikely until staff openings can be filled.
  - A short term solution could be training at WFOs.