

NTHMP MES-EC Workshop Minutes
October 17 - 20, 2011
FEMA Region X
Lynnwood, WA

Attendees:

Jenifer Rhoades, Co-Chair	NOAA/NWS/OCWWS
John Schelling, Co-Chair	Washington State EMD
Tamra Biasco, Co-Chair	FEMA Region X
Erv Petty	State of Alaska Emergency Management
Kevin Miller	State of California, Office of Emergency Services
Kevin Richards	State of Hawaii Civil Defense
Rainer Dombrowsky	Maryland Emergency Management Agency
Althea Rizzo	State of Oregon Emergency Management
Charles Williams	State of Alabama Emergency Management
Victor Huérfano	Univ. of Puerto Rico/Mayaguez – PR Seismic Network

Non-MES-EC Members:

Rocky Lopes	NOAA/NWS/OCWWS
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Monday, Oct 17, 2011

Greetings / Introductions

Tamra Biasco, host, Jen Rhoades, and John Schelling welcomed the meeting attendees and initiated the meeting.

*Note: Briefings from this meeting are located at
<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/Minutes/mesminutes/2011fallmeeting.html>*

Proposed Baseline Metrics/Annual Collection Process (Jen Rhoades)

The approved NTHMP Strategic Plan mandated baseline measures. A survey was conducted last fall to help support the creation of baselines, and the Coordinating Committee finalizing the Final Survey Report in May, 2011. 529 communities were targeted with 155 that responded.

In August, the MES-EC appointed a sub-team (Jen, Kevin Richards, and Rainer) to develop baseline metrics from the survey and proposed a method to annually update the metrics.

See PowerPoint presentation by Jen Rhoades for specific details reported.

Specific Comments:

- If this survey is conducted again, perhaps break critical facilities question into two parts: 1) does your community including critical facilities in your hazard plan? and 2) within your community, do you know if your critical facilities participate in the plan?
- There is a concern about modifying questions in future surveys so we don't end up comparing apples to oranges where results from future surveys are not comparable with past survey results.
- Discussion on tsunami education resources: wanted to know more about what the resources that respondents said that they needed were. Rocky added that the Assessment of Tsunami Education indicated that about half wanted more money to print more stuff, and about half indicated they wanted more resources to train local volunteers to do more personalized local outreach.
- Comment: no specific question was asked in the survey to determine a baseline for the metric to “annually increase local warning reception capabilities by 10%”.
- Need to account for the low response rate and determine actual counts for inundation map and warning reception metrics.
- Recommendation that results need to be validated. Problem with it through is that it may give a message that we don't like the results that were returned with the survey.
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Actions:

1. The term ‘critical facilities’ will be removed from Metric #1 and #2. (Jen – Done)
2. Send an action for each MES-EC member to review the raw data from the survey for the following metrics (TBD) :
 - a. Metric 1: Yes – amend. (Take out critical facilities)
 - b. Metric 2: Yes – amend. Be clear about “tsunami threatened community” so it doesn't apply for some states where tsunamis are not a threat.
 - c. Metric 3: Yes – amend (amend results – how many do you really have?)
 - d. Metric 7: Yes – amend
 - e. Metric 8: Yes – amend – modify to include U.S. locations not included in Metric 7.
3. Add an errata to the survey reports that explains why the above survey results were amended (TBD)
4. Create a web-based annual survey to collect performance metrics based on metrics that have been identified. This will go to NTHMP members and not directly to counties or localities. (John)

5. Present results at the NTHMP Annual Meeting.

State Media Guidebook Status Update (Rhoades)

Jen asked for an update on the States that are developing Guidebooks:

- Alaska: working with state PIO to continue its production, with a goal to have it done by the end of the calendar year.
- Hawaii: working with state PIO to continue its production, with a goal to have it done by the end of the calendar year.
- California: wanted some more California context added to it, and is targeted it for completion in 2012.

Oregon and Puerto Rico are in the process of updating their existing Guidebooks.

John recommended referring to the NTHMP Media Corner for an impressive design and flow for media information about tsunamis: <http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/media-corner/guidebook.php> -- particularly the graphics and animations piece – very helpful!

National Awareness Week (Lopes)

Rocky Lopes discussed the current Tsunami Awareness Week planning activities.

- Small team formed to work on Tsunami Awareness Week planning
- Theme selected for this year is “Nature’s Warning”
- The group selected the following catch phrase “Tsunami...go to high ground, don’t hang around”
- Other items being developed include:
 - Creating tsunami quad-fold brochure to raise awareness and to educate readers about tsunamis.
 - Create Quick Response Code – a visual element that can be scanned by some smart phones that will lead to information on a website (website TBD).
 - Create articles about tsunamis of various lengths for localization and placement by local partners.
 - Using ‘chachkies’:
 - coasters
 - marbled blue wrist bands
 - small LED flashlights, perhaps with a red blinking feature, with the logo or artwork for TAW 2012
 - Create an on-line list of consensus-developed, research-supported messages specifically for these audiences: Coastal hotel/motel operators, owners, management – what they should do as responsible innkeepers.

- Create a post card to promote 2012 TAW itself. This post card can be distributed at various events, meetings, etc.
- Create language, and where appropriate, accompanying visuals, that can be used on social media for each day during TAW 2012, as well as on or around the anniversary of March 11, 2011, tsunami events.

Education Plan (Lopes)

Rocky provided an update on the Education Plan Implementation.

- An overview of the existing compendium was conducted (see power point)
- Reviewed the need to develop consistent messaging
 - Conducted a group exercise that evaluated the accuracy of existing messaging and sources.

Tuesday, Oct 18, 2010

Education Plan Continued (Lopes)

- Discussed a methodology to determine the effectiveness of tsunami education products used for the public

Action: Rocky requested that existing materials and information used to educate visiting populations be shared with him, so the MES-EC can have them located in one location.

Tsunami.gov Website Discussion (Rhoades)

Jen provided an overview of the current status of a new, enhanced tsunami.gov.

An incremental approach is planned for the portal.

1. Validate and prioritize requirements
2. Investigate technology opportunities
3. Define development phases
4. Use rapid development and release process

Phase 1: provide last 7 days of TWC products from both TWCs on one website in tabular form

Jen showed images of mock-ups of web pages in tabular format

Jen described next steps in phases of roll-out of revised tsunami.gov website.

The MES-EC then went through the list of tsunami.gov requirements and ranked them in order of priority.

Decision Support Tools (Petty)

Erv Petty requested exercise scenarios to be submitted to him for this project. He is specifically looking for good exercise scenarios that have been done or are planned to be done. Also looking at Shakeout exercises and including the scenarios for those.

John Schelling described a “scenario catalog.” He described a repository where information can be stored for scenario-driven seismic events. He reported that 20 scenarios were developed through a pilot project paid for by FEMA and produced by USGS.

The maps used by the State of Washington were developed with an Adobe Flex Viewer by Western Washington University.

Wednesday, Oct 19, 2011

Tsunami HAZUS Module Discussion (Biasco)

Tamra Biasco introduced her boss, Ryan Ike, Branch Chief for Risk Analysis for FEMA Region X.

Tamra described FEMA’s risk assessment project for the tsunami hazard. Region X is doing a Cascadia Subduction zone hazard analysis. This is to produce a tsunami module for HAZUS.

The timeline targets Spring 2013 for completion, which includes some pilot projects.

See the presentation and related materials for more details and a deeper description of this project.

A session on tsunami inundation risk and vulnerability assessment toward loss reduction and resilience will be offered during the AGU conference in San Francisco in December. Althea Rizzo will be among the presenters at the session.

Jen raised a concern about how to incorporate outputs from the various tsunami inundation models (NOAA, States, etc.) into the HAZUS tsunami module.

Jen stated that it was good to brief the NTHMP/MES-EC, but the MMS also needs to be briefed and have their ideas, concerns, and questions considered.

Charles mentioned a concern about the response issues – HAZUS outputs when first developed were inaccurate and not helpful in developing a Presidential Declaration for disasters. He pointed out that FEMA Response is using this model for consideration of an emergency declaration (Presidential Disaster Declaration.)

- Question: are there plans for Beta testing the tsunami HAZUS module? Ans.: good question, not sure yet.
Suggestion: a technical advisory group from the NTHMP MMS be created/engaged.
- Comment: HAZUS runs at different speeds based on the speed of the computer being used to run the model. If it takes hours to get results, it frustrates users.
- Comment: a request was made for regular updates and engagement of the NTHMP MES-EC as the project moves along.
- Request: Ryan asked for suggestions of where test runs could be done.
- Request: be sure to include inputs of more than earthquakes – also include landslides.
- Question: how connected are NTHMP MES-EC members with Sea Grant folks?
Answer: not too much. They're rather academic. No cross-coordination between Sea Grant and any part of the Tsunami Program. There are personal relationships at the state level, but not nationally.
- John Schelling suggested that the MES-EC hold a conference call and ask these questions to provide input for Tamra as she works on the group developing the tsunami HAZUS module:
 - What do you like about HAZUS that you would want to see in the tsunami module of it?
 - What would you improve?
 - How would you utilize it?

John suggested involving Rocky to help facilitate the conference calls and capture input to provide to Tamra to support her work.

Cascadia Subduction Zone Planning Effort (Biasco)

Tamra reported that DHS National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (at Sandia Laboratories) approached FEMA R-9 and R-10 about doing a modeling effort for the Cascadia subduction zone for an M9 earthquake.

A second draft of baseline impact analysis was discussed. (The third draft is due by the end of October, 2011.)

The developers used the maragrams from the Pacifex 2011 exercise, flood elevation run-up from the maragrams.

Their projections of fatalities caused by a tsunami event were found to be way off base; inconsistent with Nate Wood's studies. For example, the report indicated that a tsunami would kill 10 people in Seattle due to tsunami run-up. We know that run-up will not occur in Seattle.

State reps indicated that the report helped to enlighten state agency reps about response and recovery issues about which they were not thinking or aware, particularly for such a major event that takes out all infrastructure and causes mass casualties.

A critical infrastructure meeting will be held with industry representatives in two weeks.

Building Codes (Biasco)

Appendix M of the 2012 Building Codes for critical infrastructure are due soon.

There will be a meeting in a week on FEMA P-646 to see what lessons learned from Japan can be or should be incorporated into the document.

Vertical Evacuation Animation (Biasco)

FEMA Region X is developing an animation video that describes tsunami forces and explains vertical evacuation structures. It is due by December, 2011.

Tamra showed a version of the storyboard and played a draft of the video voiceover.

John Schelling updated the group about the Tsunami Safe Haven project. He reported on a New Zealand investigation in Japan about what worked and did not work.

TWEA Reauthorization/WSSPC Whitepaper

Jen stated that the Tsunami Warning and Education Act sunsets on 12/31/2012. The NTHMP subcommittee co-chairs met to discuss reauthorization of TWEA.

In August, volunteers were recruited for a working group to work on this matter. See the presentation for some suggested guidelines in the form of a Whitepaper.

Kevin Richards from Hawaii has volunteered to serve as the lead for the TWEA Work Group. Kevin stated that he encourages all comments to be shared with him to go into the white paper. Kevin stated that a list of accomplishments from each state, as well as a list of what additional projects would be done with additional funding through NTHMP authorized by TWEA.

The group discussed various aspects of the TWEA, NEHRP, and salient points that Kevin may consider for adding to the paper.

TsunamiReady Update

Jen reported that not much has changed since the update given in August, 2011. Jen described the vision that a web-based application would be created from all of the various revised TR Guidelines. This has not occurred yet for various reasons, including that the web designer who was previously working for the program left for another job in May, 2011.

Thursday, Oct 20, 2011

Briefing on NTHMP Repository

Loren Pahlke and Scott Thurston joined the meeting by phone and used GoToMeeting to provide a demonstration on a prototype of the Repository.

- The software being recommended for the Repository offers an automated user interface to provide navigation in a localized language (English, Spanish, or French) based on the default settings in a user's browser.
- The information is designed to be presented in a simple, clear and clean manner. One can only search or browse.
- Estimated cost about \$80,000 for running the Repository during the first year. Most of the costs are personnel costs. The software is free and the hardware costs are a few thousand dollars.
- Estimated cost of \$400,000 over ten years for hardware and infrastructure – hardware, network, communications, disk space, backup media, cooling, etc.
- The Repository offers:
 - Localization – alternatives are not localized
 - Simple to use and interact with
 - Ability to search by type
 - Full Boolean search capability
 - Thumbnails
 - Can do self-submissions w/o having to work through administrators
 - RSS feeds and email feeds that tell people about deposited items
- In order to keep the site from going stale, it requires participation from many people, and have someone in charge of promoting and marketing the Repository.
- All objects in the Repository will be able to be downloaded
- Administrators have rights to delete items, but not submitters.

Discussion

- Should the repository include items that require payment of fees to acquire? The MES-EC agreed that all items in the Repository should remain available for free.
- Loren recommended that the requirement to have a “shopping cart” which would allow people to choose multiple items in a Repository and download them all at once. That would make sense if the Repository involved collecting fees or shipping items. Since this Repository does not do that, Loren recommends that this requirement be changed to “could” from “required.” The MES-EC concurred with the recommendation

Next Steps

- Kevin Richards recommended that we give them the go-ahead to proceed further.
- Jen Rhoades stated that they are funded through February, 2012. More discussions will be held and a decision will be made at the NTHMP annual meeting in February.
- John recommended that the MMS get a similar demonstration of the Repository because the MES and MMS have the most vested interests in this project.
- Althea Rizzo stated that she was concerned that we not get locked into a solution until we know more about the funding situation and what we are designing to (that is, DSpace, or another archiving site such as NGDC or other.)
- MES-EC agreed the repository can move forward after the MMS approves the plan, and a site to host the repository is selected.

Action(s)

- Loren and Scott need to hold a meeting with the MMS to demonstrate the repository prototype as they did today.
- Evaluate and present recommendations for where the repository will be hosted to the NTHMP-CC
- Once the repository location is determined, Scott and Loren will complete the design of the portal.
- Scott and Loren will present design and development/maintenance cost to the NTHMP-CC in February.

Announcements

Jen announced that she is leaving the NWS to go work for the National Ocean Service’s Integrated Ocean Observing System Program starting November 7, 2011.

Adjournment