TSUNAMIREADY® SUPPORTER INFORMATION

Small coastal jurisdictions and non-government entities often establish tsunami safety plans and actively participate in and promote tsunami awareness activities. An entity that promotes the principles and guidelines of the TsunamiReady program but, due to their nature is not eligible to be recognized as a TsunamiReady Community (i.e., they cannot meet the guidelines), may be eligible to be designated as a TsunamiReady Supporter[1]. Potential TsunamiReady Supporters (entities) include, but are not limited to, businesses, schools, churches, hospitals, shopping centers, malls, utilities, museums, aquariums, villages, small communities, state parks, beaches, harbors, and broadcasters/broadcast stations.

TsunamiReady Supporter eligibility and designation is based on the criteria explained in the following pages and is ultimately determined by the local National Weather Service (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologists (WCM). The WCM may engage the State/Territory Tsunami Steering Committee or TsunamiReady Board (Board) for consultation, but such consultation is not required. TsunamiReady recognition of the county or community in which an entity resides is not a requirement TsunamiReady Supporter designation. TsunamiReady Supporter designation typically lasts for five years. Participation in the TsunamiReady program as a TsunamiReady Supporter is voluntary.

Links

- TsunamiReady program: http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/
- TsunamiReady Supporter application: http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/supporters.shtml
- NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.shtml

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[1] The availability of TsunamiReady Supporter designations is determined by the local National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) and the State/Territory Tsunami Steering Committee or TsunamiReady Board.

TSUNAMIREADY SUPPORTER CRITERIA

The criteria that follow are designed to guide TsunamiReady Supporter designation and provide a framework to help the NWS ensure consistency with the goals of the TsunamiReady program.

Criteria	Recommended
1. **Have Ways to Receive Tsunami Alerts** • Two ways (one must include all alerts) • When entity is occupied	Additional ways for backup and redundancy
2. **Have Ways to Communicate Tsunami Alerts** • Two ways (advisories and warnings) • When entity is occupied	Additional ways for backup and redundancy
3. **Make Tsunami Hazard or Evacuation Zone Map Available** • One posted in central location for each occupied entity building	• Copies posted throughout entity, including all entries/exits • Copies distributed • Maps available online
4. **Conduct Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Activities** • One annual outreach/education activity that includes staff (may be tsunami-specific or part of multi-hazard activity)	• Multiple outreach/education activities for staff, residents, and/or visitors • Tsunami evacuation drills • Participation in community emergency management exercises
5. **Have Tsunami Response Plan with Evacuation Instructions** • Plan for entity management purposes	Plan shared with all entity staff, residents, and/or visitors

1. Have Ways to Receive Tsunami Alerts

It is important that an entity has various ways to receive Tsunami Watches, Tsunami Advisories, and Tsunami Warnings (tsunami alerts) issued by the National Weather Service. An entity should have at least two ways to receive tsunami alerts, and one of them must receive all of these tsunami alerts (some only provide Tsunami Warnings). Having multiple ways to receive alerts is important for backup and redundancy in case the primary way does not work.

All alert levels are provided by these means:
- NOAA Weather Radio,
- Some third-party alert providers via subscription or contracted service,
- Some local radio and broadcast/cable television stations,

In addition to the providers listed on the previous page, Tsunami Warnings are also provided by:
- The Emergency Alert System (radio and cable/broadcast television),
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (on enabled mobile devices for first warning only), and
- Opt-in providers from counties and large cities (e.g., "Alert Montgomery," "ReadyOC"). Many counties and cities offer this free service.

Additional providers of email, SMS text, and RSS feeds for tsunami and other weather emergency alerts are listed here: http://www.weather.gov/subscribe. Tsunami-specific information is here: http://www.tsunami.gov/sources.php.

An entity must monitor for alerts at least during the hours that it is occupied by staff, residents, and/or visitors.

2. Have Ways to Communicate Tsunami Alerts

Just as it is important that an entity has ways to receive tsunami alerts, it must also have at least two ways to communicate tsunami alerts (Tsunami Advisories and Tsunami Warnings, at least) to staff, residents, and/or visitors. An entity should be equipped to provide tsunami alerts daily, during the hours that it is occupied by staff, residents, and/or visitors.

Alert communication methods include:
- Public address announcements (fixed or mobile),
- Outdoor and indoor warning sirens,
- Email and/or text service,
- Telephone mass notification system,
- Door-to-door notification,
- Programmable internal emergency notification systems,
- Lifeguards on beaches and on patrol,
- Entity-controlled local television cable channel, and
- Posting of message on entity intranet, website, and/or social media.

3. Make Tsunami Hazard or Evacuation Zone Map Available

A tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map must be available to entity staff, residents, and/or visitors. At a minimum, the tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map must be clearly posted in a central entity location, where all staff, residents, and/or visitors are likely to commonly use or pass though. At least one tsunami map should be posted in each occupied building owned, used, and/or operated by an entity. For entities like shopping malls or others without a clear center and with multiple possible entry and exit points, it is recommended that maps be prominently displayed at all major entry and exit points (since people may use only a part of the facility).

It is also recommended that maps be distributed to staff, residents, and/or visitors and posted online (e.g., intranet or website). If an entity is residential (e.g., hotel or condominium) or has occupants (e.g., school or hospital), maps may be provided to each room or posted on the back of entry and exit doors used by staff and the public.

If an official tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map is not available, an entity should develop one that indicates the best estimate of the location of tsunami hazard areas (e.g., beaches and areas of low elevation) using information from the National Weather Service and appropriate local authorities and experts. Hurricane storm surge inundation maps are an acceptable alternative to a tsunami inundation map (but only in areas without tsunami-specific maps). The map should be clear, simple, and large enough to read from at least a few feet away.

4. Conduct Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Activities

Conducting tsunami awareness and preparedness activities at an entity's site is important, and at least one major outreach/education activity should be offered each year. These activities may be multi-hazard as long as they include tsunamis in the content. Possible activities include but are not limited to:
- Multi-hazard events or presentations,
- Adding on to Great Shakeout drills,
- Tsunami safety workshops,
- Leveraging of state and local Tsunami Preparedness Week/Month campaigns,
- Staff training,
- Mass emails from top officials,
- Broadcast public announcements, and
- Safety "standdown" activities.

A combination of these activities throughout the year is recommended. At a minimum, outreach/education activities must be conducted for entity staff. Where possible, it is strongly encouraged that these activities also be conducted for an entity's residents and/or visitors.

The NWS recommends that entities participate in community exercises conducted by local or state emergency management and host tsunami evacuation drills. Evacuation drills (tsunami walks) help staff and regular visitors become familiar with how to respond to a Tsunami Warning: what to do, where to go, how to get there, etc.

5. Have Tsunami Response Plan with Evacuation Instructions

Entities should have a written plan that describes how they will respond when a tsunami alert is received. This does not have to be a formal emergency response plan, but it should at least:
- Designate staff to monitor tsunami alerts,
- Identify timeframes during which tsunami alerts are monitored,
- Designate whom to notify when a tsunami alert is received, and
- Identify response protocols for each tsunami alert level.

At a minimum, this plan should be developed and shared with an entity's management. Ideally, it is available to an entity's staff, residents, and/or visitors (e.g., posted on intranet or public website or in common area).