

Notes

NTHMP Warning Coordination Subcommittee

Tuesday, August 20
10:00am – 5:00pm MDT
Bennett Federal Building, Room 5007
125 State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah

1. Updates from the TWCs

Chip McCreery presentation:

- Mutual backup is still in work not perfect, but improving
- GNSS will be a significant improvement
- WFOs can assist where needed (Monterey WCM)
- Each center evolved separately – different management chains

James Gridley presentation:

- Procedures similar but have lots of differences
- IT support is an issue
- Staffing for both centers is always an issue – hiring underway
- Communications testing – 3rd party issued warning
- SIFT 4.0 is being implemented – what used to take an hour runs in 5 mins
- Outreach – AK and WA partners, schools, EMs, etc.
- We plan to offer the tsunami training (formerly called WCM training) in the Spring.

Elena Sulemani – how are warnings are canceled? Chip McCreery: case by case. Each Center has different Designated Service Areas (formerly called AORs), therefore different cancellation criteria.

EQ analysis FISMA- High – high security due to protection of life and property

Chip Guard: what level is all staff alerted to report to duty? James: any warning. Chip: U.S. warnings.

Kara: IDSS – Weather ready Nation – looking for enhanced IDSS. IDSS Directive is a reference. General Partner, core partner, deep relationship core partner (NTHMP)

Enhanced IDSS

SIFT pdf summaries and graphics

Threat data bases

WEA polygons

More inter and intra- agency exercises

PDF summaries are a primary way of supporting IDSS

Update WCS Terms of Reference should consider including IDSS if applicable.

Corina: SIFT pdfs are really important tools to support partners.

Maximilian: Agrees effective and fast

PDFs go to ROCs, EMs, etc.

Elinore: NWS Chat can be effective

2. Tsunami.gov –what are plans for revisions and updates?

Mike intro: A lot of effort went into developing the combined site as you see it now. It is now cloud-based, so high traffic should no longer be a problem.

One person at NTWC currently maintains, seeking additional resources to maintain it.

Chip: The previous PTWC website could not be updated, so it was imperative to have a site that displayed all tsunami products.

Mockup of proposed revisions to the tsunami.gov site has tabs for different regions, and color codes that change during events.

Spanish products are available. Chip: PR products are the only ones issued in Spanish.

Mike: Looking for feedback on new tabbed page. Kevin: Likes the new page. Corina: really likes the redesign. Definition of product titles would be good. That info will be provided.

Current functionality will be preserved.

Intended audience? Mike: multiple audiences, primarily general public, IOC member states, EMs, and WFOs.

WFOs area forecast discussion – hand written. Tsu.gov could be designed for EM community. Make it oriented towards the decision-makers. Hits come from all over the world, and can't prevent that. EMs need to see data specific for their areas.

Elenore: 508 compliance? Yes, this matter is being addressed.

3. Discussion: WCS Annual Work Plan / Action Chart

Rocky introduction: The 2019 WCS annual Work Plan was not developed due to the Government shutdown. Welcome input from all activities in an efficient manner. Need to identify priorities. OK to not act on some of the identified activities.

Activities need to be linked to the 2018-2023 NTHMP Strategic Plan.

Time was spent discussing and updating the WCS 2019 Annual Work Plan.

Review of actions

Tview is being replaced by pdfs.

We had to cancel placing funds on a grant for a post-event investigation team should a tsunami event happen because NOAA General Counsel objected to “parking” funds on a grant for unspecified travel (who, from where, and when.)

There are organizations that do emergency response. NTHMP may be able work with those organizations when needed. Rick is working on a protocol.

New Work Plan draft:

2020 national exercises: Dates and scenarios 6 months before exercise.

Handbooks: Remove Guam, CNMI and American Samoa.

Report on TWCs backup communications test.

PTWC-NTWC backup exercise? Chip: Communication test rather than exercise.

TWC communication test added. Kara: Already a process for this, just need to perform the tests. Review procedures between centers and conduct communication tests. Ensure customer lists are updated.

Provide update at next NTHMP Annual Meeting.

Elinore: Append this test as part of American Samoa exercise? Kara: might complicate the communications test.

Michael Mercer: A bit concerned about NTHMP creating deadlines for government agency. (Changed to report on test.)

New item SIM development? Mike Angove: Identifying a gap. Kara: TWCs need upgrades to forecast new areas.

Rocky: Could add an item to identify a list of where SIMs are needed. Mike A.: Maybe identify where forecast gaps exist in general? NWS has a forecast issue. Maximilian: Need to revitalize process for improving forecasts. Mike A.: Would need to identify funding. Rocky: NOAA/NWS grant funding has to go for the benefit to state partners, for example, PMEL modeling for WA. Marie: Development of SIMs is for operations.

Corina: States should coordinate with TWCs to identify needs. Mike A. - Agrees. Rocky: What a subcommittee is doing should be identified as a subcommittee activity and this falls outside of that realm.

Partner-TWC discussions can be identified as agenda items.

Rocky: New Item - **States and territories identify alerting area needs and meetings with respective TWCs.**

Maximilian: Product is a list of alerting area needs.

Mike A.: TWCs need to tell him where the gaps are, and continue working with the states to identify needs. Can use that info to develop budget requests.

Chip: Observatory messages on website was a WCS item, why is this? Rocky: Reporting on activities is OK, but TWCs being assigned tasks is not.

Rocky: WCS Terms of Reference – In the past TWCs accepted minor tweaks occasionally.

Kara – new item: **Conduct Warning System Training at NTWC**

Rocky: Offered by NTWC and can be tracked here. Christa: There should be a parallel effort for PTWC.

Chip: That would be OK. Rocky: Possible, but wouldn't be available until FY20 grants.

Denise: Doesn't seem fair for Caribbean partners.

Chip can support the training.

Item Added: **Consider how PTWC partners can participate in Warning Center Training held in PTWC.**

Jonathan: Can this training be held off site from a TWC? COMET tsunami training is available.

Maybe a training session concurrent with NTHMP? Would be difficult to work into schedule.

Kara: New item – **Enhanced IDSS products distributed with Pacifex Exercise**

New item – **Update WCS Terms of Reference**