

WARNING COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING 10/02/2018

Attendees:

Mike Angove, NTWC, WCS Co-Chair (Acting)
Dan Belanger, Alaska DHS/EM, WCS Co-Chair
Armel Castellan, Environment Canada, Vancouver
Maximilian Dixon, Washington EMD
Kara Gately, NTWC
Becki Heim, NWS Alaska Region HQ
Brian Howell, U.S. Navy JTWC
Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center
Lewis Kozlosky, NWS HQ
Yvette LaDuke, California OES
Rocky Lopes, NWS HQ, NTHMP Administrator
Jeff Lorens, NWS Western Region HQ
Chip McCreery, PTWC, WCS Co-Chair
Kevin Miller, California OES
Christa Rabenold, NWS HQ
Kevin Richards, Hawaii EMA
Althea Rizzo, Oregon EMA
Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey
Robert White, Emergency Management BC
Christa von Hillebrandt, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program/ITIC
Walt Zaleski, NWS Southern Region HQ

Mike Angove kicked off meeting at 3:03PM EDT

Review of Indonesia tsunami event

Mike Angove: When you have a near-field threat like we do in Cascadia, the Caribbean, American Samoa, Hawaii ... when the alert goes up, you have to get water observations before deciding to cancel the warning.

When there is more dependence on sirens during a big event, it presents danger. Having a prepared population that will respond to natural warning signals is better.

Laura Kong requested information on backup of TWCs. What are backup procedures?

Angove: during Hurricane Lane, PTWC failed over to NTWC since their facility was evacuated. It worked well. If we know that we have to take on responsibility for an extended time, it should be announced on a public alert such as WEPA40. (Six hours or longer).

NTWC does not have 100% of PTWC capability up and running. The NTWC does not have capability to populate international bulletins exactly. They can issue the bulletins, but they may not look the same.

When PTWC can reassume operations, they should announce they have resumed responsibility.

Chip McCreery described that PTWC has the same procedure and it will work both ways. PTWC can run NTWC messaging code, but would be challenged in having to do double the work.

There is a team established to write common messaging code between both TWCs.

Status of Work Plan items

- Add layer to tsunami.gov web site to see observatory message layer. This will be by default off.

NTWC isn't interested in doing this. Observation messages are not tsunami products and not within tsunami.gov responsibilities. They are not public products and not posted.

Concerns that tsunami.gov didn't have anything on it during the Sept. 28th, Sulawesi tsunami event.

Angove: NTWC will provide an informational banner for future events which occur outside our AOR or TSP area of coverage.

McCreery: need to make clear where limits of PTWC coverage area is. Yes, we do need a statement that we are aware of the event, but it doesn't apply to U.S. locations.

Brian Howell: JTWC was concerned ... many questions why they couldn't get data from Indonesia or Australia. Is there some entity within NOAA that has these data they could get?

Angove: great question. Dept. of State is in same situation. Indian Ocean data are not made available. There are mechanisms to address data availability within the TOWS working group within the IOC. We must be free and open with data sharing, but that is not the current situation internationally.

McCreery: we would have a challenge within the Indian Ocean. There are three different tsunami warning centers serving the Indian Ocean and they keep their information private. Each country has responsibility for alerting their publics.

Angove: will provide links to international tsunami service providers.

Kong: there were no gauges working in Palu.

- Determine dates and scenarios for 2018 National Exercises

This should be 2019 exercises – corrected.

Pacifex at end of March ... has source been settled? Ans: Don't know.

Von Hillebrandt: I am the "work group." Suggestion for source was Kuril Islands.

Date: don't want date to conflict with March 14 CaribeWave
March 27 is last Wednesday of March

Dixon: Washington has scheduled an exercise on March 20
Familiar with Kuril source north of Japan? Sort of.

Dixon: looking for distant source for that day, so to coincide with planned exercise on March 20, Pacifex can be scheduled that date.

Miller: no conflict w/CA's Tsunami Awareness Week March 25 – 29

March 20, 2019, date set for PACIFEX.

CaribeWAVE: March 14. Two scenarios – Panama to affect Western Caribbean and Kick'em Jenny volcano – flank collapse induced tsunami

Lantex: Walt Zaleski sent an email to four WFOs on East Coast.

JAX requested scenario based on Cumbre Viejo flank collapse.

MIA said something more realistic that may impact them would be of interest.

MLB said anything that would impact the FL beaches would be something they would like to see.

Final decision on source left to NTWC. Kara Gately to provide LANTEX source based off previous NTHMP/MMS work characterizing tsunami sources.

- Implement TView operationally and provide all WCS login information

Angove: more to follow on this. Mike will update during next year's NTHMP meeting

- Known tsunami communication tests or exercises on table/ calendar on tsunami.gov or NTHMP web site.

Christa Rabenold reported: a single exercises page was created on the NTHMP website. We believe this activity has been completed, but it remains a living web page that can be modified and expanded upon as needed. See this: <https://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/tsunamiexercises.html>

- Make catalog of tsunami scenarios available to NTHMP partners

Rabenold: This is in part addressed by the new tsunami exercises web page. However, this only addresses scenarios for which exercises have been held and guidebooks developed.

Laura Kong reported: TsuCAT may be an option for providing a more extensive catalog of scenarios. It was created based on an international request to PMEL. It is an offline tool that contains 5,000 scenarios (based on MOST and RIFT). It is 30GB, so there is a question about how to distribute.

Dissemination test messages will resume later this month under current protocols. Rocky Lopes explained that a public notice about a change in the product coding (moving VTEC to top and using a "9000-series" Electronic Tracking Number (ETN) showed only positive responses. A

Service Change Notice (SCN) was posted announcing that this change will take place effective April 1, 2019. The SCN is here:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/scn18-94vtec_tsunami.pdf

- Travel funding for post-event investigators

Lopes explained that American Samoa requested these funds in their FY18 NOAA/NWS Tsunami Activities Grant. However, this request was not allowed per terms of NOAA General Counsel, so the funds were not awarded.

- Webcam network

Rick Wilson reported that he worked some John Allan of Oregon who added some of the cameras to his NANOOS site.

Objective by NTHMP Annual Meeting to have expanded cameras for the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic, and Gulf Coast.

- CISN

California will be taking on the responsibility to support CISN since USGS is no longer able to do it.

Discussion on WEA Polygons

Polygon parameters include coordinates out to two decimal places, and a limit of 100 vertices.

Angove brought up: tsunami zone polygons with two objectives – to replace current breakpoint dependencies and to identify WEA targeted areas.

Dixon: WA has no breakpoints. Were planning to match up polygons with breakpoints anyway.

Gately: if you are creating breakpoints, you need to coordinate with me. There are more boundary issues that you need to be aware of. Needs to coordinate with UGCs and CAP alert procedures.

Belanger: need to meet about this in person about Alaska.

Von Hillebrandt: does this apply to PTWC covered areas?

Lopes: we're working on West Coast and Alaska first before moving on to other areas.

Angove: does CA understand the task?

LaDuke: yes we do.

Mike Angove added after meeting was concluded:

Added Clarification on Tsunami Zone versus WEA polygons: Tsunami Zones could also be used for the NWR/EAS alerting, and could eventually allow for new NTWC breakpoints not tied to NWS Public Zones. The Tsunami Program is researching capabilities for Tsunami Zone alerting. If it is pursued, WEA polygons could be adapted to Tsunami Zones.

Meeting ended at 4:07pm ET.