

Mitigation and Education Subcommittee

Terms of Reference

November 12, 2019

Introduction

The Mitigation and Education Subcommittee (MES) provides a mechanism for stakeholders to engage and provide strategic development of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives to reduce the risk to tsunamis along the coastlines of the U.S. and its territories. The MES is guided by the NTHMP Strategic Plan and supports the NTHMP Coordinating Committee. The MES will help improve tsunami mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery effectiveness by providing NTHMP partners a means to integrate and share their experience with existing State and Federal programs and apply that to tsunami risk reduction activities. MES members will use this experience to develop and agree to actions and recommendations relating to products and activities that will provide increased education, outreach, resilience, and training to the public and other stakeholders.

Purpose

The Mitigation and Education Subcommittee works to reduce tsunami impacts primarily through education and outreach that increase awareness and encourage preparedness and resilience. It also promotes and provides guidance on other risk reduction activities, such as:

- evacuation planning and exercises;
- integration of tsunami risk into land-use policy and planning;
- recommendations for NWS's TsunamiReady Program;
- promoting community education networks, materials, websites, and programs;
- development of comprehensive coastal risk and vulnerability assessment training and decision support tools;
- implementation of technical training and public education programs;
- integration of tsunami activities into ongoing all-hazard warning and risk management activities, response and evacuation plans, and mitigation programs;
- promoting adoption of tsunami warning and mitigation measures by federal, state, tribal, and local governments and nongovernmental entities;
- developing and disseminating best practices and guidelines;
- incorporation of social science findings;
- improving tsunami education and training to support tsunami-resilient behavior; and
- serving as a source of educational expertise to the other subcommittees.

Authority

The MES shall be considered the primary mechanism for NTHMP partner input to the mitigation and educational components of the NTHMP. The subcommittee's actions and recommendations will be achieved by consensus and considered to represent the collective will of those partners. This authority is established within the context of the *Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2017* (PL 115-25) and subject to the provisions of Section 3204 of the Act.

Membership

The MES is composed of 12 state emergency management representatives, one from each of the regions of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee, FEMA and NOAA and non-voting members that support MES goals and objectives. The NTHMP Administrator is an ex-officio member.

The current official membership is maintained on the NTHMP website. Outside experts and other stakeholders may be invited to participate in MES discussions but their agreement is not required for any formal consensus. These might include:

- Other Federal Agencies (USGS, FEMA, etc.)
- Other NOAA programs (NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists, National Ocean Service, etc.)
- International Tsunami Information Center
- Social Science Experts
- State Geological Agencies
- Academic representatives
- Other

Chairpersons

Chairpersons are voted on by MES Executive Members at the Annual NTHMP meeting and are then approved by a majority of the NTHMP Coordinating Committee. MES Chairs shall include a federal representative and two state representatives for a three-year term, with no term limits. The MES is led by a Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, each with one-year terms as a specific chair. If any Chair resigns from the position during his/her term of office each respective, corresponding Chair will move up as appropriate. Then Second Vice Chair position will become vacant and the NTHMP Administrator shall make a call for nominees and a vote taken for the specific vacant position (i.e., state or federal) within 30 days of the vacancy.

Communications

In-person meetings are usually held bi-annually in conjunction with NTHMP meetings. Between in person meetings, communication will occur primarily through email and conference calls; notes and action items will be maintained by MES leadership and posted to the NTHMP website. Completion of actions will be coordinated by the leadership recommendations will be forwarded to the appropriate organizations by the leadership.

Activities

The MES will develop an annual work plan that describes MES activities to be accomplished during the calendar year and submit it for approval at the annual meeting by the Coordinating Committee. The MES annual work plan will provide milestones with metrics to measure progress and be tied to one or more strategies and outcomes in the NTHMP Strategic Plan.

The MES will update progress on measurable milestones identified in the work plan during regularly-scheduled meetings during the year. MES meetings will be a forum for exchanging information on planned activities of stakeholders and to seek projects that could be of mutual interest of stakeholders. When requested by the NTHMP Administrator, the MES will submit content for the NTHMP Annual Report that summarizes MES progress for the year.