

**TALKING POINTS FOR A US EAST COAST (USEC) MEGA TSUNAMI
CAUSED BY A CUMBRE VIEJO (CV) VOLCANO COLLAPSE**

What is Cumbre Viejo?

- Cumbre Viejo (Spanish: *Old Summit*) is an active volcano on the Island of La Palma in the Canary Islands, Spain.

What is the relationship between Cumbre Viejo and the US East Coast?

- Volcanic eruption and collapse of Cumbre Viejo could drop a considerable amount of rock into the ocean resulting in a tsunami that could arrive on the US East Coast (USEC).

What is the likelihood for Cumbre Viejo failure and tsunami generation?

- The potential for a full failure and total collapse of Cumbre Viejo (CV) and creation of a large, damaging tsunami along the US East Coast is extremely low.
- However, the inundation maps being created by the University of Delaware and the University of Rhode Island for the USEC will include tsunamis created by CV failure, as well as other potential landslide/earthquake sources which could impact the USEC.
- Tsunamis producing smaller waves can and have happened on the USEC but have been caused by earthquake-generated offshore landslides or the weather phenomenon called a meteotsunami.

What if this extreme CV failure were to occur? What would it mean for people living along the EC?

- Again, this type of extreme event is very rare. However, if a CV failure did occur, it would likely be a smaller failure, which has been evaluated, modeled, and will be included in inundation maps for the USEC.
- In the unlikely event that there were a failure in CV, residents along the USEC would have about 8-10 hours advanced notice. This will allow time for the people most vulnerable to the tsunami to get away from low-lying coastal areas to safer areas inland.
- In any emergency situation you should always follow the instructions of your local, county or state government emergency management office.

What can people do to prepare for a tsunami?

- Although a total collapse of CV would be a rare event, when a TV show or movie tries to dramatize an event like this it is important for the public to know what is science and what is science fiction.
- It is great time for people to learn the facts about [tsunamis](#) and [meteotsunami](#) and their potential to occur along the USEC.
- While large damaging tsunamis are very uncommon along the USEC compared with other regions of the world, people should still take steps to understand if they are vulnerable to tsunamis and other hazards and prepare for them in case they happen.
- For more information contact your local, county or state office of emergency management.