

**INFORMATION FOR US EAST COAST, PUERTO RICO, AND US VIRGIN ISLANDS EMERGENCY
MANAGERS ON RECENT CUMBRE VIEJA VOLCANIC ACTIVITY**

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What is the Cumbre Vieja volcano (CVV) and what is occurring there now?

- Cumbre Vieja (Spanish: *Old Summit*) is an active volcano on the Island of La Palma in the Canary Islands, Spain.
- Since Sept 19th 2021, the CVV has been erupting, causing lava flows, moderate seismic activity, and explosions. This eruption is expected to last for some weeks and is being closely monitored.

What is the likelihood of Cumbre Vieja failure causing a tsunami on the US East Coast, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands?

- Volcanism can be a source of tsunamis, particularly if flanks of the volcano collapse into the ocean.
- The potential for a full failure and total collapse of Cumbre Vieja volcano (CVV) and subsequent creation of a large, damaging tsunami along the US East Coast, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands is remote now and in the future.

What if a tsunami were to occur? How would it impact the US East Coast, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands?

- In the unlikely event a large failure of the CVV flank were to occur, a worst-case scenario could create a tsunami resulting in flooding impacts similar in scale to that of a storm surge from a landfalling hurricane.
- In addition to flooding, tsunamis are accompanied by more dangerous and dynamic currents than storm surge. These powerful currents pose a hazard to coastal infrastructure and may last for hours or days after tsunami alerts have ended.
- The [NOAA/NWS Tsunami Warning Centers](#) continue to monitor the Atlantic Basin for any event which can create a tsunami and are prepared to issue tsunami products if a tsunami is detected.

What can Emergency Managers do to prepare for a tsunami?

- If a tsunami is detected, Emergency Managers would be notified by NOAA's Tsunami Warning Centers. They would likely have several hours of advanced notice.
- Although the probability of a Cumbre Vieja volcano-related tsunami impacting the US East Coast, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands is extremely low, now is a good time to review the history and facts about [tsunamis](#) from other sources and their potential to affect the Atlantic basin.
- Consider emphasizing efforts to achieve and maintain [TsunamiReady](#) recognition for at-risk communities
- Determine if your jurisdiction is vulnerable to tsunamis and consider adding tsunamis to your operational and hazard mitigation plans, if you have not already done so.

Sources for additional information on tsunamis

- [U.S. Tsunami Warning System](#)
- [TsunamiReady](#)
- [NOAA Coastal Hazards Mapper \(US East Coast Tsunami Inundation\)](#)
- [Tsunami Safety](#)
- [International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office](#)
- [National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program](#)
- [NOAA Tsunamis](#)
- [Draft Inundation Maps and Reports for Parts of the U. S. East Coast](#)
- [Tsunami Evacuation Maps for Puerto Rico](#)
- [Additional scientific information](#)