



Tsunami Exercises

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade

NOAA NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program

Puerto Rico, USA

NTHMP Annual Meeting

August 19, 2019

Linkages to Strategic Plan

- **Goal 2.3: Exercises are effectively supported**
- Exercises enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of tsunami disaster management during a real event.
- **Strategy 2.3.1: Conduct exercises that include tsunami scenarios**
- Through exercises, NTHMP state partners will identify gaps and lessons learned that can help improve tsunami emergency response plans. Exercises range from drills to table-top, functional, and full-scale exercises. They can be conducted specifically for tsunamis, or tsunamis can be included in broader multihazard exercises. To support exercises, the Tsunami Warning Centers and state partners can prepare scenarios with associated timelines and messages and test communication systems. Exercises are an opportunity to enhance collaboration among federal, state, local, and nongovernmental organizations and leverage resources. They may also include community evacuation drills and be used to educate the public.

Cont.

- **Goal 2.4: Stakeholders are adequately engaged**
- Engagement of stakeholders at all levels is a critical element of tsunami education and preparedness.
- **Strategy 2.4.1: Engage stakeholders in tsunami preparedness and response**
- Staff from coastal businesses and the tourism and maritime industries are key partners in tsunami preparedness, mitigation, and response. **Active involvement of these and other stakeholders in exercises** and the delivery of tsunami outreach is essential to building a sense of community ownership and commitment to public safety. NTHMP partners will engage stakeholders at all levels to enhance all aspects of tsunami mitigation, preparedness, and response capabilities.

THEME 4: Alert, Warning and Response

- The NTHMP provides guidance to the NOAA-led U.S. Tsunami Warning System on Tsunami Warning Center domestic messages and helps assure the local delivery of these products. In this role, it supports local warning point reception and dissemination and provides for **coordination of U.S. Tsunami Warning System exercises and tests.**

Cont.

- **Strategy 4.3.1: Support and provide tools to enhance community-level response planning**
- To help ensure effective tsunami response, NTHMP partners will continue to support and provide tools to enhance community-level response planning. This will include training, **exercises**, and plan review for communities and harbors and will consider specific improvements to real-time response activities.

Exercises

- TWC facilitated tsunami exercises – CARIBE WAVE, PAC WAVE, LANTEX, PACIFEX
- Shake Out
- State/Local Exercise organized by NTHMP, supported by NTHMP
- Federal Exercises – SAFER, Cascadia Rising, Homeland Security

<https://tsunami.gov/?page=exercises>

<https://caribewave.info>

“Recommendations” 2018 NTHMP MES Meeting

- Importance of tracking participation, eg. thru Shake Out or Tsunamizone.org – currently on TsunamiZone there are only pages for California and Caribbean, Washington, Oregon and Alaska had indicated an interest in having a page, Status?
- Future scenario exercises – recommendation that the handbook be available 2-3 months before exercise
- Recommendation to prepare a survey template (Pending)
- Recommendation to List Exercises and Related Information on the NTHMP Website for Reference (Done)
- Suggestion that Pacific West Coast Exercise (PACIFEX) for March 2020 be based on Southern Cascadia Event (Include Washington, California and NTWC)

Exercises since NTHMP 2018

- Caribe Wave 19 Caribbean and Adjacent Regions: 14 March 2019 (Earthquake and Volcano Scenarios) with 792,289 participants (consolidated number from TsunamiZone and reported by countries).
- Pacifex 19 Pacific US and Canada: March 20, 2019
- Lantex 19 Atlantic US and Canada: March 26, 2019
- Caribe Wave 20 Caribbean and Adjacent Regions: 19 March 2020, Portugal and Jamaica scenarios.

For Discussion

- Tracking participation,
 - Status of development of pages for Oregon, Washington and Alaska on Tsunami Zone
 - Shake Out – can we verify if tsunami is included?
- Exercise Evaluation instrument
 - Questions – Caribe Wave has one with 66 questions (many would be irrelevant to NTHMP but could be used as starting point)- according to Strategic Plan, should focus on identifying gaps and strengths, engagement of stakeholders, community level preparedness
 - Mechanism – for CARIBE WAVE we are able to use Survey Monkey (UNESCO)
- Time Lines and Sources for future exercises:
 - LANTEX,
 - PACIFEX
 - CARIBE WAVE already has sources thru 2022 and date for 2020
 - PACWAVE

Thank You!