

# 2015 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

## Call #1 - October 15, 2014

### Participants

Melinda Bailey (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)  
Russell Jackson (NOAA/NOS/Office for Coastal Management)  
Elton Lewis (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)  
Rocky Lopes (NOAA/NWS/HQ)  
Elinor Lutu-McMoore (NOAA/NWS/Pago Pago)  
John Metz (NOAA/NWS/Corpus Christi)  
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)  
Alina Nieves (NOAA/NWS/Corpus Christi)  
Cindi Preller (NOAA/NWS/Alaska Region)  
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)  
Jeri Siegel (California Office of Emergency Services)  
Walter Snell (NOAA/NWS/San Juan)  
Roy Watlington (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands)  
Paul Whitmore (NOAA/NWS National Tsunami Warning Center, NTWC)  
Brian Yanagi (International Tsunami Information Center, ITIC)

### Purpose of the Calls

The purpose of these calls is to share ideas and resources to support each other in our respective tsunami preparedness campaigns, regardless of when they are held. It also provides an opportunity to provide recommendations for how NWS HQ Tsunami Program staff can support NTHMP and local NWS efforts.

### Status of National Tsunami Preparedness Week

Christa Rabenold (NWS/HQ) briefed the group on changes to the way NWS conducts national preparedness campaigns: Based on feedback from NWS warning coordination meteorologists (WCM) and service coordination hydrologists (SCH), NWS is replacing several of the existing preparedness weeks with four seasonal campaigns focused on the hazards unique to each season. The concern was raised that the timing for the weeks as previously recognized did not always meet local needs. WCMs and SCHs have asked for resources that they can use any time of year. A national seasonal safety campaign will reduce the crush of preparedness weeks while allowing state and local weeks to continue. In addition, it will allow NWS to focus on consistent messaging and design when presenting hazard information. The seasonal campaigns will use the web, social media and other forms of dissemination to communicate the importance of hazard awareness and preparedness to the general public.

Going forward, tsunamis will be included in the spring campaign (March, April, and May). This year, tsunamis will also be included in the winter campaign (December, January, and February) in recognition of the 10th "anniversary" of the Indian Ocean tsunami. The NWS HQ Tsunami Program will continue to provide focused support for activities the last week in March.

Kevin Miller (CA) noted that in the past, California has used the national week to help focus activities and get proclamations from the Governor and local authorities. Also, as demonstrated by ShakeOut,

there's something to be said for such focusing events. Cindi Preller (NWS/AK) agreed, and said that it would be great to have the week and the seasonal campaign. Elinor Lutu-McMoore (NWS/Pago Pago) likes the flexibility, noting that American Samoa is considering holding Tsunami Preparedness Week in September, around the "anniversary" of the September 29, 2009, tsunami. Anyone who has strong feelings about the proposed changes should send them in writing to [christa.rabenold@noaa.gov](mailto:christa.rabenold@noaa.gov).

Currently, most states and territories that recognize Tsunami Preparedness Week plan to do it (or have in the past) the last week of March (AK, CA, CNMI, GU, PR, USVI, WA). Oregon conducts tsunami preparedness activities throughout the month of March, and Hawaii recognizes April as Tsunami Preparedness Month. As noted above, American Samoa is considering holding Tsunami Preparedness Week in September.

The last week of March was chosen because of the "anniversary" of the 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake and Tsunamis and its proximity to the anniversary of the April 1 event, which provides the focus for Hawaii's Tsunami Preparedness Month.

### **Initial Plans for Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns**

- Brian Yanagi (ITIC) mentioned that the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System will be recognized in April in Honolulu, HI, which is Tsunami Preparedness Month. A two-day symposium will be held prior to the convening of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, which includes representatives from over 40 countries. A tsunami session is also planned for the PRiMO (Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana) meeting in Honolulu, HI, in March.
- Kevin Miller (CA) mentioned that California will start its planning in November. They plan to participate in Pacifex, hold a tsunami communications exercise, and support the coastal communities with public activities and drills, government exercises, etc. They will build upon TsunamiZone.org, created for Tsunami Preparedness Week in 2014 to record events and provide educational content. They plan to extend the site to other interested states and territories in the next few months.
- Elton Lewis (USVI) expressed that the U.S. Virgin Islands is interested in TsunamiZone.org and will be participating in the exercises in March. He also mentioned that they are putting on two tsunami workshops for the marine community for the first time in conjunction with the NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program in November. More information can be found here: <http://www.vitema.gov/news/releases/2014/Maritime-Community-Tsunami-Workshop.html>
- Paul Whitmore (NWS/NTWC) mentioned that the three exercises are scheduled for March 25 and the user guides should be available by the end of the year: Caribe Wave: Magnitude 8.5 earthquake and tsunami in Panama (Caribbean); Lantex: Slump generated tsunami off Florida coast(U.S./Canada Atlantic with potential Caribbean impact); Pacifex: Magnitude 8.6 earthquake and tsunami in Kamchatka (U.S./Canada Pacific)
- Post-call update from Laura Kong (ITIC): Exercise Pacific Wave 2015 will be held February 2-5, 2015. PacWave15 is planned to be a multi-scenario live exercise triggered by messages from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC), Japan Meteorological Agency, and the U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center. Its primary objective is to test PTWC's new enhanced international forecast products which commenced this past October 1, 2014. PTWC's products are provided to the 46 countries comprising the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.
- John Metz (NWS/Corpus Christi) mentioned that for the last couple of years, his office has held a tabletop exercise with emergency management partners in conjunction with the Lantex exercise to educate them about the threat. For 2015, they want to branch out to schools on the barrier islands. They have been using modeling from Juan Horrillo at Texas A&M in Galveston.
- Walter Snell (NWS/San Juan) mentioned that creating graphiccasts for each day of Tsunami

Preparedness Week last year was challenging. Would like new and fresh graphics. Christa Rabenold (NWS/HQ) asked if he could send her what they did last year. He agreed (and has sent them).

## Other

- Cindi Preller (NWS/AK) asked if the NWS had plans for the 10th anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Christa Rabenold (NWS/HQ) responded that NWS Public Affairs is working on putting together a communications plan. The event will also be incorporated into the tsunami portion of the winter seasonal campaign, which is being driven by NWS Communications.
- Brian Yanagi (ITIC) mentioned that the Smithsonian is putting together a documentary about the 2004 event, which will include interviews with Pacific Tsunami Warning Center watchstanders who were on duty during the event. Anyone who hears anything about broadcasting/availability of this documentary is encouraged to share the information with the group.
- Calls will be held monthly on Wednesday at 2pm Eastern, at least until January, then the group can decide if we want to go bi-weekly as the weeks/months get closer. Christa Rabenold (NWS/HQ) will schedule them and notify the team.

From:

<http://www.tsunamieducation.org/wiki/> - **Tsunami Education**

Permanent link:

<http://www.tsunamieducation.org/wiki/doku.php/tsuprep2015call1>

Last update: **2014/10/16 14:27**

