

2015 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Call #4 - January 21, 2015

Participants

Sam Albanese (NOAA/NWS/Anchorage)
Eric Boldt (NOAA/NWS/Los Angeles)
Christopher Brenchley (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Region)
Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program - CTWP)
Lewis Kozlosky (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Rocky Lopes (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Jeff Lorens (NOAA/NWS/Western Region)
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)
Erv Petty (Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management)
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Ryan Sandler (NOAA/NWS/Medford)
Jeri Siegel (California Office of Emergency Services)
Walter Snell (NOAA/NWS/San Juan)
Alex Tardy (NOAA/NWS/San Diego)
Harvey Thurm (NOAA/NWS/Eastern Region)
Brynee' Walker (Washington Emergency Management Division)
Roy Watlington (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands)
Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)
George Zuniga (Navy Region Southwest)

National Weather Service HQ Updates

Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ) shared the following:

- Materials are in development for the NWS Spring Safety Campaign. These materials should be available mid-February for comment.
- Tsunami Walk materials for 2015 have been added to the NTHMP Tsunami Preparedness Week website under U.S. Geological Survey
<http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/tpw/tsunami-preparedness-week.html>.
- There are no NWS funds available to purchase promotional items.

Christa is on the NTHMP annual meeting agenda to discuss annual tsunami preparedness campaigns. She asked the group if they would like to go around the room during this time to briefly present on their plans or if they wanted her to summarize their activities. It was agreed that we would go around the room. This will have to be quick given the limited time (approximately 20 minutes total). There will not be time for individual PowerPoints, so there is no need to prepare visual materials.

Other Federal Updates

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (CTWP) informed the group that the registration system for the Caribbean and NW Atlantic exercises to be conducted on March 25 will open on Friday. Registration and other materials are available at caribewave.info. Last year, they had 191,000 registrations.

TsunamiZone Update

Kevin Miller (CA) updated the group on TsunamiZone.org, reminding us that it is a spin-off of the ShakeOut site and is designed, in part, to allow for the posting and registration of tsunami preparedness activities. This will allow for the collection of data and benchmarking regarding participation. The site will also include links to other tsunami preparedness information. It launched last year for California, but is now being expanded to include other interested states and territories. The U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa have expressed interest in joining the effort. Calls are scheduled for the following Fridays 1/23, 2/06, 2/20, and 2/27. Interested parties are welcome to join the calls, which will be from 11am-12pm Pacific time. The call in number is 916-636-3841 (no passcode). For more information, contact Kevin directly.

Plans for Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

- Kevin Miller shared that there will be a meeting next week with the coastal counties where they will discuss local plans for Tsunami Preparedness Week (e.g., proclamations, tsunami walks, etc.). There will be a live code test in the northern counties and the required monthly test in the other counties. Jeff Lorens (NOAA/NWS/Western Region) noted that feedback will be solicited about the tests.
- Erv Petty (AK) shared that Alaska had its first coordination call with NWS and will be requesting a proclamation. They will be sending out informational flyers to schools as done in the past. They will probably not be doing a drop, cover and hold drill but will encourage schools to hold evacuation drills and encourage communities to test their sirens manually. They will coordinate activities with local emergency managers. There will be a live code test, and they will continue to work on education and the collection of feedback. An operations workshop will be held in Ketchikan for 15 communities. These communities (small remote villages) don't think they have much of a threat (it's local vs. distant), so they really need the education. The state is working with the NWS, and there will be an open house at the National Tsunami Warning Center on Saturday, March 28.
- Brynne' Walker (Washington Emergency Management Division) shared that Washington is tentatively planning to hold its Tsunami Workgroup tabletop exercise on March 23 using the Pacifex scenario. In Clallam County, they are working with the Red Cross as part of the state's Train-the-Trainer program and will hold a weather radio program and meet with hotels and businesses to present new information and maps.
- Walt Zaleski (NWS/Southern Region) shared that the NWS office in Melbourne, Florida, is preparing for the LANTEX exercise, which will include calls and emails to emergency management points of contact. He also mentioned that the NWS Corpus Christi Office is reprinting the tsunami bookmarks created by NWS/HQ for distribution in schools.
- Walter Snell (NOAA/NWS/San Juan) shared that they are planning a tsunami drill to test office safety procedures in association with the LANTEX exercise.
- Christa Rabenold shared on behalf of Elinor Lutu-McMoore (NOAA/NWS/Pago Pago) that for American Samoa, she just finished working on the tsunami local reference binder to be in line with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center's products. Also, they are working closely with American Samoa Homeland Security to prepare for the upcoming NTHMP meeting.

Other Items of Interest

- "Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: Next Generation" from the American Planning Association with support from FEMA has been released and is available for free download at <https://www.planning.org/research/postdisaster/>. This is an update to the 1998 guide.
- Brynne' Walker shared that the groundbreaking for the Ocosta Elementary School and vertical tsunami evacuation refuge was held last week. There was good attendance from local media. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by December 2015. You can learn more here: <http://mil.wa.gov/blog/news/post/nations-first-tsunami-vertical-evacuation-center-breaks->

ground.

- Kevin Miller, Alex Tardy (NOAA/NWS/San Diego), and Paul Whitmore (NOAA/NWS/National Tsunami Warning Center) were attending a photo shoot at the new tsunami kiosk at the Oceanside Pier with the Oceanside fire chief and mayor. The pier gets approximately a million visitors per year.

The next call is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2-3pm EST.

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