2015 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Call #5 – February 18, 2015

Participants
Eric Boldt (NOAA/NWS/Los Angeles)
Ted Buehner (NOAA/NWS/Seattle)
Emily Dicken (Emergency Management British Columbia)
Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, CTWP)
Elton Lewis (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)
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)
Kevin Richards (Hawaii Emergency Management Agency)
Althea Rizzo (Oregon Office of Emergency Management)
Walter Snell (NOAA/NWS/San Juan)
Dan Snider (NOAA/NWS/Anchorage)
Roy Watlington (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands)
Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)

National Weather Service HQ Updates

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

- Draft materials for the NWS Spring Safety Campaign were sent out with the agenda for this meeting. Once finalized (week of February 23), they will be shared in editable formats with NTHMP partners and colleagues.
- The NTHMP Coordinating Committee recognizes the last week in March (March 22-28) as Tsunami Preparedness Week.

Other Federal Updates

Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region) offered to connect Christa Rabenold with the lead for the NWS JetStream Online Weather School to facilitate updates to the tsunami module.

TsunamiZone Update

Kevin Miller (CA) updated the group on TsunamiZone.org. Work continues on the site, and it will likely go live in about a week. California, Oregon, Guam, and American Samoa have been providing content to the developers (info@tsunamizone.org) for the site. Kevin reminded us that in exchange for hosting and posting, partner states are asked to post events, promote the page, and encourage people and organizations (e.g., schools) to register for events. The next call is scheduled for Friday 2/20 at 11am Pacific time. The call in number is 916-636-3841 (no passcode). For more information, contact Kevin directly.

Plans for Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Tsunami Education - http://www.tsunamieducation.org/wiki/
Jeff Lorens (NOAA/NWS/Western Region) shared that the NWS Western Region will be supporting the California live code test by administering a simple, seven question, OMB-approved survey to capture feedback. He also noted that he has drafted two press releases, one for the Northern California live code test and one for the Southern California required monthly test, and submitted them to NOAA/NWS Public Affairs for approval.

Kevin Miller shared that planning continues in California for the live code and monthly required tests on March 25 and the associated activities, including overflights and the audio broadcast system. Counties in the Bay Area are planning drills or exercises. There will be proclamations and news releases along the northern coast and in the Bay Area. Monterey County will be conducting outreach, Orange County will be doing something, and Los Angeles County will be holding a walk out from the Long Beach Aquarium and, potentially, a workshop in Marina del Rey.

Erv Petty (AK) shared that there was nothing new for Alaska. Planning is still underway for the Governor's Proclamation, the live code test, outreach with schools, and more.

Kevin Richards (HI) shared that he also had nothing new to report and that the state is doing it's normal activities, including governor and mayoral proclamations, a siren exercise, and drills. They will also be focusing on schools, especially those now mapped in the evacuation zone as a result of the recent mapping activities. The Pacific Tsunami Museum exhibit is complete, and the Tsunami Symposium, also supported by NOAA, will be held toward the end of the month.

Emily Dicken (BC) shared that they will be messaging mostly through social media campaigns. They have put together a tweet guide to engage with local authorities. They will also use short videos, fun animated videos created in-house. Also, they are updating their Earthquake and Tsunami Smart manual, which is one of their most used and requested resources. It will include an introduction from a member of a first nations community that reflects on the 1700 event. Materials will be shared when available.

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (CTWP) shared that the emphasis in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be on the CARIBE WAVE and LANTEX exercises on March 25. Next week there will be another series of webinars (in English, Spanish, and French). Registration for the exercises is proceeding, and the numbers are expected to grow as the date gets closer. More information can be found at http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ctwp/?n=caribewave2015. Christa asked about the plans for a national level press release. Christa Rabenold said that she would follow-up with NOAA/NWS Public Affairs. UPDATE: NOAA/NWS Public Affairs said that NWS regions interested in news releases can write them up and forward them to Susan Buchanan for clearance. Then, the involved WFOs would be responsible for sending them to their contacts. NOAA/NWS Public Affairs have taken a national approach in the past, but didn't get any media coverage, and feel there just isn't enough of a story to tell at the national level.

Elton Lewis and Roy Watlington (USVI) shared that the U.S. Virgin Islands will be participating in the exercises and that they are working with volunteers from the Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol to monitor sirens to assess how well they operate.

Ted Buehner (NOAA/NWS/Seattle) mentioned the groundbreaking for the tsunami vertical evacuation structure in Washington, the upcoming TsunamiReady recognition for the Makah tribe near Neah Bay (extreme NW of lower 48 states), and the incorporation of tsunami preparedness activities with the Great ShakeOut in Oregon and Washington in October. This includes statewide evacuation drills and tsunami evacuation drills initiated by the regular monthly test code. Discussion of the Great ShakeOut generated a larger discussion about messaging for tsunami preparedness in association with this event. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands also participate in the Great Shakeout in October, but the emphasis is on earthquakes. NOAA/NWS/HQ has contacts at FEMA who are responsible for the Great ShakeOut at the national level. Christa Rabenold/Rocky Lopes Will work through them to try to engage FEMA HQ on the subject.
The next call and final call is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2-3pm EDT. A wrapup call will be held in early May to discuss March and April activities.