

# 2016 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

## Call #4 - February 9, 2016

### Participants

Mark Benthien (Southern California Earthquake Center)  
Josie Borisow (Naval Support Activity Monterey)  
Louise Fode (NOAA/NWS/Alaska Region)  
Gerard Fryer (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center)  
Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)  
Christa von Hillebrandt (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program)  
Carolina Hincapie (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program)  
Kieran Isidore (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)  
Christine Lett (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)  
Jeff Lorens (NOAA/NWS/Western Region)  
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)  
Alina Nieves (NOAA/NWS/Corpus Christi)  
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)  
Althea Rizzo (Oregon Office of Emergency Management)  
Brittany Schina (Emergency Management British Columbia)  
Chayne Sparagowski (Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Texas)  
Harvey Thurm (NOAA/NWS/Eastern Region)  
Liz Vanacore (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)  
Roy Watlington (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands)  
Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)  
Georgia Zuniga (Navy Region Southwest)

### Partner Updates

**Christa Rabenold** (NOAA/NWS/HQ) shared that materials for the NWS Spring Safety Campaign are still under development. She will share them with the group and post links online once they have been finalized.

**Alina Nieves** (NOAA/NWS/Corpus Christi) shared through Christa Rabenold that John Metz (NOAA/NWS/Corpus Christi) met with local emergency managers to discuss LANTEX16. While they are not hosting a conference for them this year, they want them to have the basic information in case they are interested in participating. During LANTEX15 they hosted a series of webinars for 4-5th graders across their area of responsibility. Feedback suggested that due to spring break and state mandated exams, March-April is not a good time for their local schools. This year, they are prerecording a presentation for this group to be made available online in May for use at any time. In addition, they are planning to make a short video about tsunami preparedness for the public to be posted on social media and their webpage. Release is planned for June 1, along with their Hurricane Season Campaign, in order to make summer tourists aware of the hazard.

**Jeff Lorens** (NOAA/NWS/Western Region) mentioned that the focus in the Western Region will be on California since Washington and Oregon incorporate tsunamis into the ShakeOut in October. There will be a live code test in the Eureka office as well as the monthly tests in the other coastal offices. He is working on the press releases, which will include FEMA, and will send them to NOAA Public Affairs.

**Kevin Miller** (California Office of Emergency Services) updated us on plans in the state. Additional testing includes the coastal overflights. Planning calls are being held. General activities include local proclamations, a social media push, siren tests in the two northern counties (and maybe one other). Evacuation drills are planned for Manila and Humboldt County. Tsunami Safe Days in Del Norte will include a fun run with vendors and kiosks and a drive to register people to sign up for telephone notifications. The emphasis for this drive is on schools (8th graders). They have partnered with a helicopter rescue unit that is offering \$1,000 (to be presented via helicopter) to the school that registers the most. The state is working on a governor's proclamation.

**Harvey Thurm** (NOAA/NWS/Eastern Region) shared that he has created a blog to share tsunami news with Eastern Region staff.

**Gerard Fryer** (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center) mentioned that the next meeting for Hawaii's Earthquake and Tsunami Advisory Group is Friday and that 2016 is the 70th anniversary of the 1946 tsunami. Activities related to this event are being planned. While not specifically related to tsunamis, the [Quicksilver surf championship](#) is being held for the first time in six years given expectations of 40 foot wave heights. Conditions are good for development of surf beat (sneaker waves), which are often mistaken for tsunamis. He is working on an article to alert the public about this hazard.

**Glorymar Gomez** (Puerto Rico Seismic Network, PRSN) reminded us that Puerto Rico will be participating in CARIBE WAVE on March 17. A press conference and public statement will announce the exercise. They are requesting a governor's proclamation and authorization to use the EAS, as used previously, to announce the beginning of the exercise and will conduct a siren test. They are developing a media tour for the exercise and using it as an opportunity to talk to coastal communities about the importance of preparing for tsunamis. Other activities include distributing materials to tourists and hotels and a seminar at the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez, Department of Geology. They are also working on an NTHMP web page to feature information about tsunamis and PRSN activities.

**Christa von Hillebrandt** (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program) reminded us of the March 1st transition to the enhanced international warning products and the transfer of responsibility for domestic products from the National Tsunami Warning Center to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. The simulated domestic products for CARIBE WAVE were emailed to stakeholders. She wants to make sure they were received. If stakeholders did not receive these products, they should [let her know](#). It has not been decided whether or not they will be made available online. Webinars for CARIBE WAVE are being held March 1 (English), March 2 (Spanish), and March 3 (French). Gerard Fryer (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center) said that he would make sure that Spanish and French speakers are lined up for the appropriate calls. See the [exercise website](#) ([caribewave.info](http://caribewave.info)) for more information about the upcoming webinars, recordings from the past webinars, and to download the handbook.

**Louise Fode** (NOAA/NWS/Alaska Region) shared that Alaska will be conducting a live code test for March 30 to coincide with the anniversary of the 1964 event. They are in the initial stages of securing the FCC waiver and contacting local communities to make sure they are aware and sirens are in working order. They are also working with the Weather Forecast Offices to make sure they are ready to do the test.

**Althea Rizzo** (Oregon Office of Emergency Management) reminded us that Oregon does not have a formal week, but that they have a number of activities going on in March, including evacuation route improvements, tsunami walkouts on March 11 and 12, and outreach events on the coast throughout the month.

**Brittany Schina** (Emergency Management British Columbia, EMBC) shared that British Columbia is in the beginning planning stages but will probably be launching a pilot project in Tofino on Vancouver Island this spring. The project will be sustainable and adaptable to other areas in future years and features a high ground hike that will start on the beach and end with a preparedness fair on high ground. EMBC will provide planning support to communities interested in conducting similar events.

**Roy Watlington** (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands) shared that the U.S. Virgin Islands will be tweaking existing awareness materials from VITEMA as well as the International Tsunami Information Center and others to better reflect the local tsunami hazard and address multicultural issues. They will be adding local stories to help make the threat more relatable to locals.

### Other Notes

At last week's annual NTHMP meeting, Tetsuyuki Ueyama from the Japan Meteorological Agency presented on experiences from the March 11, 2013 event. A [commentary in the Japan Times](#) on February 6 provides some additional information about the tragic story of Okawa Elementary School in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture.

### TsunamiZone Notes

- TsunamiZone updating to provide registration for the March 17 CaribeWave Exercise is almost complete - in English, Spanish, and French, including additional messaging to be included in confirmation emails to registrations from Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.
- CaribeWave, LANTEX, and Cascadia Rising will be added to the 2016 Calendar on the homepage.
- Local events being planned in California and elsewhere should be added to the TsunamiZone calendar at <http://www.tsunamizone.org/calendar/>.
- Email [info@tsunamizone.org](mailto:info@tsunamizone.org) to request a webpage for your state/territory similar to [the California page](#).
- The NTHMP social media/outreach group will research and provide a recommended list of anniversaries and observances (e.g. November 5th UN "World Tsunami Day"; Jan. 26th, 1700 Cascadia Tsunami Anniversary; March 11th, 2011 Tohoku; December 26th, 2004 Indian Ocean) to have on TsunamiZone.org. This will tie into a task on the National Education Plan using data from NCEI.

### Next Call

Wednesday, March 9, 2-3pm Eastern

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