

2017 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Call #5 - July 11, 2017

Participants

Mona Barnes (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)
Josie Borisow (Naval Support Activity Monterey) Maximilian Dixon (Washington Emergency Management Division)
Leo Espia (Guam Homeland Security)
Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center)
Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)
Gala Gulacsik (FEMA Region X)
Becki Heim (NOAA/NWS/Alaska Region)
Carolina Hincapie (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program)
Paul Huang (NOAA/NWS/National Tsunami Warning Center)
Kieran Isidore (Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)
Yvette LaDuke (California Office of Emergency Services)
Rocky Lopes (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
John Marquis (Southern California Earthquake Center)
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)
Cindy Pridmore (California Geological Survey)
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Roy Watlington (Professor Emeritus, U.S. Virgin Islands)
Charlie Woodrum (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Region)
Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)

Christa Rabenold (NWS/HQ) provided the following updates:

- World Tsunami Awareness Day is November 5. Discussions are underway about how to support this day from NWS/HQ. Efforts will be similar to last year's. The UNISDR views any fall tsunami activity as a potential contribution to World Tsunami Awareness Day and encourages the inclusion of the World Tsunami Awareness Day message as part of these activities, where appropriate.
- NWS Communications now includes tsunamis in their fall (September - November) seasonal safety campaign (as well as spring's) to capitalize on World Tsunami Awareness Day and ShakeOut activities. Materials are being freshened up, and some new graphics have been created. Materials will be shared prior to the campaign kickoff.
- NOAA's Ocean Today has packaged their tsunami videos into a "[Tsunami Survival Guide](#)" for their "Full Moon" series for educators.

Kevin Miller and **Yvette LaDuke** (California Office of Emergency Services) shared the following:

- October Tsunami Communications Test and Shakeout Update - The annual communications test will be held on Wednesday, October 18, with the ShakeOut happening the following day on Thursday, October 19. Wednesday will focus more on tabletop exercises and behind the scenes planning and preparation. Thursday will be focused more "under the table" with drills and exercises (focused on "drop, cover, hold on, and get to high ground..."). Wednesday will also focus more on distant source events where the sirens could be activated, and Thursday will focus more on near source events where the shaking of the ground may be our only warning.

The week will also focus on schools since they do not have a consistent plan, at least in Humboldt County, which has over 30 school districts and charter schools.

- The biannual California Tsunami Steering Committee met in June. Among the discussions were the new apps with tsunami tips and evacuation information from [Humboldt County](#) and Ventura County.
- Bonus Note (sent after call): 2017 Humboldt County Fair Earthquake/Tsunami Room - The fair is running August 23 through September 4 (closed Monday, August 28). This year's theme is "Memories." Information from the series of 1992 quakes will be highlighted along with registration for the ShakeOut and information on how to access and use the new app and the Office of Emergency Service's new warning system (Everbridge).

Cindy Pridmore (California Geological Survey - CGS) confirmed that CGS will be participating in the [California Science Education Conference](#). She will be conducting a [workshop for teachers](#) with Lori Dengler designed around Lori's book [The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome](#). The focus will be on the differences between tsunami waves and ocean currents. CGS will have a booth at the exhibit hall and will be handing out tsunami materials. The Southern California Earthquake Center will have the booth across from them.

John Marquis (Southern California Earthquake Center) shared that registration for North Coast (California) ShakeOut activities will be coordinated so that they appear on both ShakeOut and TsunamiZone websites. They can do this for Oregon and Washington too, if there is interest. There are discussions about asking other individuals registered for ShakeOut activities if they want to be listed on the TsunamiZone too. Participation for March's Caribe Wave has been updated. The new total is 679,918. As always, questions or comments about the TsunamiZone can be directed to info@tsunamizone.org.

Charlie Woodrum (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Region) shared that in May the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) held a media tsunami exercise. The PTWC's location on Ford Island is difficult for the media to access. The exercise was designed to run through the procedures and test TV signals. Twenty-five media representatives took part along with the county and state emergency management agencies. The exercise was a success and the PTWC continues to make strides to improve the process. See [article](#).

Maximilian Dixon (Washington Emergency Management Division - EMD) informed the group that:

- Washington is planning a tabletop exercise for next spring around the time of their annual road show. They are working on setting up a consistent annual date for these activities.
- They are working on implementation actions to address recommendations from the 2012 report "[Resilient Washington State](#)". Specifically, they are focusing on the recommendation to "Improve life safety in coastal communities at risk of local tsunamis." They are working on getting information into a forthcoming report to the governor about the need for funds and support.
- There are plans to install five new sirens at the end of September.
- They've designed playing cards for preparedness kits.
- EMD is working with Washington Department of Natural Resources on pedestrian evacuation maps with walk times. They are working with local emergency managers on how to make them usable. Let [Maximilian](#) know if you are interested in collaborating on this activity.

Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network) mentioned that they have a three-day FEMA-funded earthquake/tsunami train-the-trainer for emergency managers planned for July 26-28. Twenty participants, one from each of the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Agency zones and other key people, are expected to attend and will be asked to give feedback following the training about how

many trainings they give and how many people they affect. They also recently held a tsunami workshop for the maritime community. About 80 people attended, including emergency managers and other government representatives as well as representatives from private entities.

Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center) shared that they continue to work with the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management on the Historical Tsunami Photo Project. They completed their walk-in collections at the libraries. Several photos were received from various events. In June, Laura Kong traveled to Samoa to recognize [the country's first Tsunami Ready program](#). **Rocky Lopes** (NOAA/NWS/HQ) noted that the international community, through UNESCO/IOC, is adapting the U.S. TsunamiReady program for use internationally under the banner "Tsunami Ready" (with a space). There are now six international Tsunami Ready communities.

Paul Huang (NOAA/NWS/National Tsunami Warning Center - NTWC) informed the group that the NTWC will be hosting a tsunami session at the upcoming Oceans 17 conference in Anchorage, Alaska. They will also be hosting a group of tsunami scientists from Japan, including some affiliated with the underwater observatory. The center is also updating its event coordination package and establishing a special, isolated room for news people and other visitors to keep them separate from operations.

Leo Espia (Guam Homeland Security) shared that Guam continues to conduct tsunami outreach throughout the year (e.g., puppet shows, Tsunami Mikenna). They are planning to work with the PTWC and the International Tsunami Information Center to conduct a communications test next spring, like they did this year (likely with CNMI). They are also engaging stakeholders to support activities associated with National Preparedness Month, ShakeOut, and World Tsunami Awareness Day.

Bonus: After the call, **Carolina Hincapie** (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program), shared that the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program is leading CARIBE EWS Tsunami Ready Pilot Program efforts to have two recognition ceremonies (Fort Liberté, Haiti, and Grenada) on World Tsunami Awareness Day.

Next Call

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 2pm EDT

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