2018 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Call #4 - May 8, 2018

Participants
Nic Arcos (NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information)
Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center)
Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)
Yvette LaDuke (California Office of Emergency Services)
Rocky Lopes (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
John Marquis (Southern California Earthquake Center)
Kim McMahon (NOAA/NWS/Eastern Region)
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)
Mark Moede (NOAA/NWS/San Diego)
Ernesto Morales (NOAA/NWS/San Juan)
Elizabeth Predham (Emergency Management British Columbia)
Cindi Preller (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center)
Cindy Pridmore (California Geological Survey)
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Alex Tardy (NOAA/NWS/San Diego)

Partner Updates

Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ): NWS Headquarters has moved the Tsunami Safety website into its content management system. As a result, the underlying address has changed. https://www.weather.gov/tsunamisafety (which is actually a redirect) will continue to work and should be used as the primary link to the home page of the NWS Tsunami Safety website. "http://nws.noaa.gov/om/tsunami" should no longer be used and will be going offline as soon as this summer and redirects will no longer be possible. If you link to the NWS Tsunami Safety page, please update your links if necessary. Tsunamis are included in the NWS’s Spring Safety Campaign (March-May). Materials for the fall campaign (September-November) will be largely the same as the spring campaign with some freshened up materials for World Tsunami Awareness Day and ShakeOut. NWS Communications has expressed interest in creating some new tsunami science graphics for the spring 2019 campaign. They are considering DART and meteotsunami graphics. If you have a request for a specific tsunami science graphic, please email it to christa.rabenold@noaa.gov. There were more tsunami posts as part of this year’s NWS #SafePlaceSelfie campaign. The NWS encourages people to use the hashtag throughout the year. As a reminder, the theme for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2018 is reducing economic impacts. NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management has recently released a methodology for identifying the economic contributions of working waterfron that may be useful in locally supporting this theme or helping with risk assessments. NOAA’s OCM will be hosting another offering of its Seven Best Practices for Risk Communication webinar on May 22.

Kevin Miller and Yvette LaDuke (California Office of Emergency Services): California’s Tsunami Preparedness Week was in March (although activities spread out over a number of weeks). There were numerous activities as described in the article on pages 7-9 of the April issue of TsuInfo Alert. These included a proclamation from the governor, a panel discussion at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach (watch it online), tsunami walks, outreach fairs and workshops with the emergency management community, and the 10th annual live code test in the northern three counties.
TsunamiZone.org recorded ~180,000 registrants and counting. There were a number of new events this year and they got a lot of positive media coverage, in San Diego and Long Beach in particular. A training will be held this week in Santa Cruz, where they’ve been trying to get more involvement.

Alex Tardy (NOAA/NWS/San Diego): A school event in San Diego in conjunction with local and state offices included a tsunami walk, demonstrations, and information booths. The office had a successful EAS test (not live code, regular monthly test). Alex was not aware of any complaints, and it appeared to go out directly. Two new tsunami kiosks were installed in Seal Beach and La Jolla and another is being installed in Huntington Beach. One side of these permanent signs displays tsunami evacuation zones/routes and the other sides have rip current information (see photos in notes email). There are a number of these signs along the California coast, installed with funding from both the NWS Western Region and Cal OES. Cal OES is replacing damaged signs in Newport and working with San Francisco to install signs there. Camp Pendleton is a new prospect for TsunamiReady recognition. The office has given them signs and radios to support their effort. Renewals for Coronado City and Orange County Sanitation District are underway.

Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network): They held an earthquake and tsunami talk for lawyers and judges at the federal courthouse in San Juan. They also had a table at the NWS/National Hurricane Center’s 2018 Caribbean Hurricane Awareness Tour stop in Ceiba where they shared earthquake and tsunami information and showed pictures from the 1918 event. The NWS renewed Dorado’s TsunamiReady recognition. Signage inventory to document what needs to be replaced continues. More interviews have been done with radio and television in regard to the 1918 anniversary.

Cindi Preller (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center): The PTWC had a media training day on April 12. About 40 people attended from the media and emergency management. This is becoming an annual event. The recent 6.9 volcano-related earthquake on the Big Island of Hawaii has proved to be very interesting for the warning center, testing procedures not used before. It was a slow earthquake, starting out as a 6.0, then coming in at 6.4, and eventually 6.9. Although a small tsunami was measured, and there were fluctuations, there was not any concern for a damaging tsunami by the time of the 6.9 reading. 6.9 is the threshold for issuing a warning, and had that magnitude been first, a warning would likely have been issued. This would have required a double/conflicting evacuation for the Big Island (volcano and tsunami) and a lot of problems and confusion. The lifeguards on the Big Island beaches cleared the beaches. Cindi is grateful for the relationships developed with emergency managers in the tsunami community and sees the real value in being able to work together and communicate when in crisis mode.

Elizabeth Predham (Emergency Management British Columbia): Tsunami Preparedness Week was the 2nd week in April. It got a lot of traction on social media. They used the #TsunamiPrep and #HighGroundHike hashtags. High Ground Hike is a provincial education program. Tofino, which has been most the engaged community, had their 3rd annual hike in March with ~300 participants. EMBC is working with communities up and down the coast, including Queen Charlotte on Haida Gwaii and a couple communities on Vancouver Island. In March, they also toured the North Coast of British Columbia and spoke with community members about tsunami preparedness and the High Ground Hike program. They found some of these communities very prepared and knowledgeable about their threat, First Nations communities, in particular. See page 11 of the April TsunInfo Alert to learn more. Elizabeth suggested having a call dedicated to high ground hikes/tsunami walks to see what we can learn from each other.

Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center): April was Tsunami Awareness Month. Activities included a press conference with Honolulu’s mayor and his presentation of a proclamation. They got a little bit of media. The ITIC also released new customized tsunami brochures
for each of the counties. Some translations are also available while others are in the works. The ITIC plans to participate in some local preparedness fairs in May and June.

**Nic Arcos** (NOAA/National Center for Environmental Information): A new web story describes and provides links to the NCEI/ITIC *[hazardous event posters](http://www.tsunamieducation.org/wiki/)*, which were recently updated. A limited number were printed.

**Bonus Note**: Next week is the 2018 Seismology of the Americas Conference in Miami. There will be some talks and posters related to tsunami preparedness.

After the call, **Leo Espia** (Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense) provided an update on their activities. April 1-7 was *Tsunami Preparedness Week*. This included a governor’s proclamation, an offering of the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center’s Tsunami Awareness Course (which had over 100 participants from various entities), and *Pacific Wave Exercise* jointly executed by Guam and CNMI and fully supported by the PTWC, UNESCO/IOC, and NWS/Guam. Outreach activities ongoing. On Guam, every relevant preparedness event is an opportunity to move forward with the island’s Tsunami Preparedness Campaign. This includes outreach, training, and other activities associated with the upcoming Safe Boating Week, Typhoon Preparedness Month, and Lightning Awareness Week.

**Next Call**
July 10, 2pm EDT

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Last update: 2018/05/10 08:39