

# 2018 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

## Call #6 - September 18, 2018

### Participants

Nic Arcos (NOAA/National Centers for Environmental Information)  
Jason Ballmann (Southern California Earthquake Center)  
Leo Espia (Guam Homeland Security)  
Camerine Franciso (Guam Homeland Security)  
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)  
Kevin Miller (California Office of Emergency Services)  
Jesikah Post (Emergency Management British Columbia)  
Elizabeth Predham (Emergency Management British Columbia)  
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)  
Liz Vanacore (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)  
Keily Yemm (Washington Emergency Management Division)  
Walt Zaleski (NOAA/NWS/Southern Region)

### Partner Updates

**Christa Rabenold** (NOAA/NWS/HQ): Tsunamis are included in the NWS's Fall Safety Campaign (September-November). [Materials \(largely social media messages and graphics\)](#) are available on the campaign website. There is also a [link to the materials](#) on the NTHMP Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns web page. [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#) is November 5. This year's theme is reducing the economic impacts from tsunamis. Christa will draft up social media messages for partners to use as is or as inspiration for their own. The National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) [tsunami database](#) is a good resource for economic information from past events. ShakeOut is in October. Partners are encouraged to consider incorporating tsunamis into their ShakeOut activities (more and more are). The deadline for the next issue of [TsuInfo Alert](#) is October 8 (or October 5 if you have off Columbus Day). Articles and associated graphics should be sent to [stephanie.earls@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:stephanie.earls@dnr.wa.gov).

**Rocky Lopes** (NOAA/NWS/HQ): The [wireless emergency alert \(WEA\) survey](#) (~15 minutes) about expanded messages is out. The deadline for responses is September 30. Rocky is asking for help spreading the word to qualified participants: State and local emergency managers and first responders. They are looking for individual responses (i.e., not collective organizational responses). Tsunami is last in responses received so far among the six hazards included in the survey. To be able to provide feedback on tsunami WEAs, participants must answer that tsunami is the most frequent problem in their area (Q1) OR that tsunami keeps them awake at night (Q2). Rocky will hold a call for partners the week of October 22 to discuss the results. There will also be a call with Puerto Rico partners to discuss the Spanish versions. [Let Rocky know](#) if you are interested in joining one, or both, of these calls. For media, other partners, and the general public, there will be an opportunity for comment in December when a Public Notification Statement will be sent requesting feedback on proposed changes. FEMA will be conducting a [national IPAWS test](#) (WEA and the Emergency Alert System) on October 3 (postponed from September 20).

**Jason Ballmann** (Southern California Earthquake Center): They are getting ready to refresh TsunamiZone.org for 2019 (November 15 deadline). The biggest update will be adapting the existing resources for the Caribbean region, including in Spanish and French. They will promote World Tsunami Awareness Day in an email blast to registrants. There are ongoing discussions about how to cross-promote [ShakeOut.org](http://ShakeOut.org) and [TsunamiZone.org](http://TsunamiZone.org) and better account for activities (and avoid double counting) registered on ShakeOut.org that also include tsunami components (and vice versa). Some states already include tsunami activities on their ShakeOut forms. Jason will put together a survey for partners to get their thoughts on how best to address this issue. Keily Yemm (Washington Emergency Management Division) expressed interest in metrics in regard to ShakeOut and tsunami drills.

**Glorymar Gomez** (Puerto Rico Seismic Network): There will be a ceremony at the beach in Mayaguez on October 11 to commemorate the 1918 earthquake and tsunami in Puerto Rico. This will include speakers from various levels of government discussing the importance of preparedness. The exhibition will be in Mayaguez to close out the tour. They are encouraging people to participate in ShakeOut. There are a lot of educational activities, drills, talks, and conferences scheduled during this time. Jason Ballmann asked Glorymar to send him blurbs in English and Spanish about the 1918 commemoration for Puerto Rico's ShakeOut page and emails.

**Yvette LaDuke and Kevin Miller** (California Office of Emergency Services): Next week, Humboldt County is holding "Humboldt Tsunami Con." It will feature a presentation to local decision makers about tsunami science, the state response process, and what to expect. There will also be a public meeting about maritime evacuation. The next day there will be a tabletop exercise for local decision makers and tribal partners. The first week in October is San Francisco fleet week. Several thousand attendees are expected. The state will have a booth there with a lot of tsunami information. The event takes place in the tsunami zone, so it is a good place to talk to people about safe zones. There is a ShakeOut event planned for Loyola Marymount on the coast in Los Angeles that will include tsunamis. There are other ShakeOut events planned (largest are Los Angeles and Berkeley) and a governor's proclamation is in the works.

**Keily Yemm** (Washington Emergency Management Division): Recognizing that inland residents visit the coast, Washington is including tsunamis in all their earthquake messaging and including the run to high ground infographic in addition to the drop, cover, and hold on graphic. In association with ShakeOut, they are doing a siren test and a tsunami ad campaign that focuses on the coast. The siren test will use the wail, so they are doing more public outreach to make people aware that it is just a test. They are doing a lot of outreach and working on a governor's proclamation. It is mandatory for all state agencies to participate in ShakeOut. Schools are also engaged, since this is the first year that at-risk schools are required to do an annual tsunami drill. The state is working on a series of quickdraw videos, including one that focuses on earthquake early warning and how to respond at the coast. There is a new tsunami inner coast work group that will have its first meeting next month. This group came about because of the increased level of interest in tsunamis following the January 2018 event. The state is working with a number of local communities to submit applications for vertical evacuation structures to FEMA's Pre-disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. For World Tsunami Awareness Day, they plan to use the Nextdoor app to get out the message.

**Elizabeth Predham** (Emergency Management British Columbia): They are working on a series of earthquake preparedness videos for ShakeOut BC. Tsunamis are not featured this year, but should be next year. The funny videos feature two actors as troublemakers Quake and Aftershock. The videos will be available on October 2. Elizabeth will share the links with Christa to share with the team.

**Tammy Fukuji** (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center, ITIC): In August, Laura Kong (ITIC) and Chip McCreery (NOAA/NWS/Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, PTWC) conducted the [ITIC training](#) in Valparaiso, Chile, for 30-40 participants. [Exercise Pacific Wave 2018](#) is underway

(September 1 to November 30, 2018). It includes multiple scenarios for Member States to choose from. The ITIC and PTWC participated in three emergency preparedness fairs. The last one for the calendar year is planned for October 20 in Manoa. The ITIC and NCEI have updated the [Historical Tsunamis \(1530 to 2018\): Caribbean, Central America, Mexico & Adjacent Regions poster](#). It is available in English and Spanish. Limited printed copies are available. The ITIC is also working NWS Pago Pago and the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security to customize the Tsunami Warning cartoon book for American Samoa.

## Tsunami Walks/High Ground Hikes

On a previous call, there was interest in a dedicated discussion about tsunami walks and high ground hikes. We began the discussion on this call. California and British Columbia have published specific guidance on how to conduct these activities, but they are also being conducted by others.

- British Columbia is working on an effort to engage 10 communities within two-three years. They usually target smaller communities, and getting support can be a challenge. Suggestions from call participants that could help increase participation include providing lunch and raffle prizes, partnering with local officials, and combining the event with another community activity, like a beach cleanup (see [International Coastal Cleanup](#)).
- In California, tsunami walks are done by groups/communities of varying sizes, including families, schools, and neighborhood groups.
- Puerto Rico did a tsunami walk during Caribe Wave, but the heat and humidity presents a challenge for coastal communities with large percentages of elderly residents.
- In Washington, tsunami walks are largely a local effort conducted with ShakeOut. The state provides outreach materials as they can.
- Other approaches include involving community members in “wayfinding,” engaging them in efforts to set their community’s evacuation routes.

[Tsunami Walk Materials](#)

[High Ground Hike Information](#)

## Next Call

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 2pm Eastern

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