2019 Tsunami Preparedness Campaigns

Call #1 - November 13, 2018

Participants
Jason Ballmann (Southern California Earthquake Center)
Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center)
Glorymar Gomez (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)
Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program)
Kieran Isidore (U.S. Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency)
Rocky Lopes (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Courtney Obergfell (NOAA/NWS/Seattle)
Jesikah Post (Emergency Management British Columbia)
Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ)
Kevin Richards (Hawaii Emergency Management Agency)
Amanda Siok (FEMA Region X)
Liz Vanacore (Puerto Rico Seismic Network)
Reid Wolcott (NOAA/NWS/Seattle)

Partner Updates

Christa Rabenold (NOAA/NWS/HQ) shared that they promoted ShakeOut with a tsunami message through social media. Articles and social media before and on the day were used to promote World Tsunami Awareness Day.

Jason Ballmann (Southern California Earthquake Center) shared that ShakeOut had another phenomenal year. To date, more than 62.7 million participants are registered worldwide. This year, due to calls from NTHMP partners, they included a checkbox on the registration to note inclusion of tsunamis. This information will be used in future marketing efforts to better cross promote ShakeOut and the TsunamiZone.

Kevin Richards (Hawaii Emergency Management Agency) reminded us that Hawaii recognizes April as Tsunami Month. It's still early in the planning process, but they plan to do what they've done in the past: social media, newspaper announcements, and the Pacific Tsunami Museum open house. An exercise is also planned. They are always looking for creative ideas from others.

Reid Wolcott (NOAA/NWS/Seattle) mentioned that they are partnering with Washington Emergency Management Division for the Tsunami Road Show the week of April 8. They will also be working with core partners for TsunamiReady in early March. The state is planning a tabletop exercise for March 20. There is a new focus on the tsunami threat to the inner coast (Puget Sound), which also has the potential for significant tsunami impacts.

Tammy Fukuji (NOAA/NWS/International Tsunami Information Center - ITIC) shared that for World Tsunami Awareness Day, the ITIC posted an article on their website and promoted the day on social media. In October, the ITIC and PTWC participated in the last preparedness fair of the year (in Manoa). The American Samoa Tsunami Warning cartoon book is complete and was introduced in association with the September 21 exercise and the AWR-217 Tsunami Awareness training. Exercise Pacific Wave 2018 continues (September 1 to November 30, 2018). Scenarios to choose from include Tonga Trench, September 29, 2009; Peru-Chile Trench, February 27, 2010; Japan Trench, March 11, 2011;
South Solomon Trench, February 6, 2013; South Solomon Trench; Manila Trench; and Tonga Trench. On November 5, Pacific Wave 18 did a live communications test from Tsunami Service Providers to Member State Tsunami Warning Focal Points. Online Evaluations are due by December 21, 2018.

Glorymar Gomez and Liz Vanacore (Puerto Rico Seismic Network) shared some information about the 100-year commemoration event for the 1918 earthquake and tsunami. The event was attended by representatives from local, territorial, and federal agencies; school students; and others. It talked about the earthquake and tsunami and the importance of being prepared. A permanent memorial for victims and survivors of the event was installed as a reminder that it has happened before and it can happen again (click on the image to enlarge it). The touring exhibit finished its tour in Mayaguez. More than 25,000 people visited the exhibition during its tour. If you’re going to AGU in December, stop by to see the poster in the Art and Science: Assessing and Evaluating Learning and Impact Posters session on Thursday afternoon.

Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (NOAA/NWS/Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program - CTWP) noted that the Puerto Rico Seismic Network did a fantastic job on the commemoration, which was all coordinated in the wake of Hurricane Maria. There was lot of press coverage and talks. They really maximized the coverage. The exhibit motivated people to take out and share old pictures. A local architect curated a separate exhibit in Mayaguez with his photos, which complemented the touring exhibit, and will also be displayed in San Juan. In regard to CARIBE WAVE 19, the handbook is available online (the IOC formatted version will follow in the next few weeks). There are two scenarios for the March 14 exercise, including a Kick ‘em Jenny volcano scenario, which was complicated to develop as they really wanted it to be realistic. International products are in the current manual. Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands need to decide which scenario they would like to use so domestic products can be made. The CTWP also promoted World Tsunami Awareness Day on Facebook. The ITIC has hired a contractor to support more regular social media messaging on the ITIC Facebook account.

Amanda Siok (FEMA Region X) mentioned that they are working with Oregon on putting together a workshop in March or April about tsunami-generated debris. Christa Rabenold suggested they engage NOAA/NOS/Marine Debris if they haven't already.

To Dos

Please send the dates of your 2019 tsunami preparedness campaigns to christa.rabenold@noaa.gov and info@tsunamizone.org so they can be added to the NTHMP and TsunamiZone websites.

Next Call

January 8, 2019, 2pm Eastern