

# Public Comments

Per NWS Policy, the expanded tsunami WEA message was provided for formal public comment via [Public Information Statement 18-33](#). This formal public review period was open from November 30 to December 31, 2018.

This is the message that was reviewed during the public comment period:

The National Weather Service has issued a tsunami warning. A series of powerful waves and strong currents may impact coasts near you. You are in danger. Get away from coastal waters. Move to high ground or inland now. Keep away from the coast until local officials say it is safe to return. Check local media for more information after you are safe.

The following comments relevant to the expanded tsunami message were provided. Two require action, and one (in yellow) requires discussion by Tsunami stakeholders. All others are irrelevant, do not apply, or note support for the work done by stakeholders when preparing the expanded message in November, 2018.

Comment #	Comment	Source	Recommendation
1	The NWS messages will use the term "this" instead of "your" to describe the area (e.g., "...in effect for your this area").	Headquarters	Does not apply to tsunami WEA message - it does not use "this" or "your"
2	The messages will capitalize the name of the warning (e.g., "DUST STORM WARNING")	Headquarters	Will need to capitalize TSUNAMI WARNING
3	The messages will remove the term "local" from any phrases that describe media partners	Headquarters	National cable media does not provide specific local information such as "move east of Main Street" as recommended by evidence-based social science ( <a href="#">Mileti keynote to NTHMP Winter Meeting</a> ). Does the tsunami team want to push back to keep the word "local" or alternatively, delete this sentence entirely?
4	Do not provide "do not" messages; instead, provide "What to DO" messages	Joseph Crisologo, Glendale, CA	Does not apply to tsunami WEA message.

Comment #	Comment	Source	Recommendation
5a	I have been voicing my concern for years about the NWS tsunami WEA message. This is the only WEA message initiated by the NWS that directs - from a federal agency - a local evacuation without consultation with local authorities.	Holly Crawford San Diego Co. CA	No time to consult in advance when a warning is issued, so local EMA should have an emergency message plan developed in advance to send as follow-ups.
5b	"You are in danger. Get away from coastal waters. Move to high ground or inland now." The "bleed over" and over alerting that currently exists with the WEA system means NWS may be unnecessarily evacuating hundreds of thousands of people in our densely populated urban coastal communities.	Holly Crawford San Diego Co. CA	This statement is inconsistent with evidence-based social science. Mass self-evacuation of "hundreds of thousands" will NOT occur. Recommend that local EMA should have an emergency message plan to send follow-up specific WEA messages immediately after issuance of a national WEA.
5c	Will we receive any advance notice of the issuance of the NWS tsunami WEA?	Holly Crawford San Diego Co. CA	All WEA messages are automated. Because every second counts, no advance notice of WEA is provided. You can assume that if you receive a Tsunami Warning via EAS or other dissemination systems, a WEA was requested through automated systems.
5d	We (local emergency services) will be initiating our own WEA messages, as evacuation is a local responsibility.	Holly Crawford San Diego Co. CA	Good, glad to see this.
6	How far inland or to what elevation is recommended for tsunamis?	"Lydiad4@cox.net" no name	Unable to be specific in a nationally-developed message. Local authorities should prepare specific WEA follow-ups.
7	It's important to stress "near the coast" instead of "at" or "on" the coast. In flat areas, tsunamis can travel a long distance inland.	Bill Borghoff NWS WFO Twin Cities Chanhassen, MN	We say "near the coast" in our message so this comment does not apply or require action.
8	Substituting the language for Tornado WEA "This is a life-threatening situation" to "You are in danger" as is used with the proposed Tsunami Warning text. While it is true that anyone in the path of a Tornado Emergency-warned storm is in a life-threatening situation, using "You are in danger" again emphasizes the need for one to take immediate action to protect one's life.	Brandon S. Swearingin University of Oklahoma	No change for tsunami - praise for our wording

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9	I thought it was odd that the tsunami one says, "You are in danger," whereas the other ones say, "This is a life-threatening situation." The first phrase ("You are in danger") is way more impactful-it catches my attention and makes clear I need to pay attention to the action info that follows. You should absolutely use that same language in the tornado alerts and possibly the flash flood warning, too.	Cymantha Governs Baltimore, MD	No change for tsunami - praise for our wording

Note: Rocky Lopes asked Dr. Dennis Mileti for his opinion of the expanded tsunami WEA message. In an email to Rocky on December 11, 2018, Dr. Mileti said, "Rocky, I reviewed this statement. For a national-level message, it is appropriate and consistent with recommendations made in reports to DHS and our research. Good job!"

Unsolicited re-writes of the message:

10	TSUNAMI WARNING: Issued by: National Weather Service. YOU ARE IN DANGER! A series of powerful waves and strong currents may impact coasts near you. GET AWAY from coastal waters AND MOVE to high ground or inland now! Keep away from the coast until local officials say it is safe to return. Check local media for more information after you are safe.	G.S. Warren, II Weather Spotter Lubbock, TX	Rewrite of the message not requested. No action required.
11	NWS has issued a Tsunami warning. You are in danger! A series of powerful waves and strong currents may impact coasts near you. Get away from coastal waters. Move to high ground or inland now. Keep away from the coast until local officials say it is safe to return. Check local media for more information after you are safe.	David McGee Unknown location	Rewrite of the message not requested. No action required.
12	National Weather Service: TSUNAMI WARNING in effect for your area NOW! Powerful waves and strong currents may impact coastal areas near you for the next several hours. Move away from coastal waters NOW! Move inland or towards high ground. Stay away from the coast until local officials say it is safe to return. Check local media for info after you move to higher ground.	NYC Emergency Management	Rewrite of the message not requested. No action required.

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