THE TSUNAMI PROGRAM OF PUERTO RICO

ICG/CARIBE EWS VII
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PUERTO RICO SEISMIC NETWORK
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO - MAYAGÜEZ CAMPUS
GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
• Support the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) as members of the Coordinating Committee and Sub Committees.

• Facilitate effective coordination of tsunami education, mitigation, warning coordination, preparedness and readiness activities in Puerto Rico among the federal, state, university and local partners.

• Successfully execute mapping, modeling, mitigation and education efforts.

• Prepare state-of-the-art tsunami inundation maps for Puerto Rico which include all credible sources and new available data.

• Improve the understanding of exposed communities in Puerto Rico about tsunami hazards, their associated risks and preparedness and empower them to mitigate the potential effects of a tsunami and thus reduce the loss of life and property from tsunamis.

• Establish more tsunami resilient communities and that Puerto Rico with its 44 tsunami threatened communities be recognized as TsunamiReady.

• Improve local warning reception and dissemination capabilities in coordination with Federal and Local Authorities.
TECTONIC SETTING

1670 MM = VII, Island Wide
1787 M8+, MM = VII-VIII, North and West
1867 M = 7.3, MM = VIII, Virgin Islands Tsunami 20'
1918 M = 7.3, MM = VIII, West, Tsunami 20'
1943 M = 7.5, MM = V, North of Puerto Rico
Vulnerability: Top 10 Tsunami Exposed Municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>%Pop</th>
<th>Houses</th>
<th>% Houses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayagüez</td>
<td>18,950</td>
<td>19.25%</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>19.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>6,308</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
<td>3,896</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arecibo</td>
<td>5,551</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>5.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aguada</td>
<td>4,798</td>
<td>11.41%</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>12.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>2.46%</td>
<td>4,513</td>
<td>6.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponce</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>2.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loíza</td>
<td>3,344</td>
<td>10.28%</td>
<td>1,212</td>
<td>11.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aguadilla</td>
<td>2,801</td>
<td>4.33%</td>
<td>1,191</td>
<td>4.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabo Rojo</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>5.12%</td>
<td>2,358</td>
<td>10.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatillo</td>
<td>2,389</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total top 10: Population: 54734 Homes: 27217
NTHMP PUERTO RICO GRANT ITEMS
ITEM 1. Full Participation of Puerto Rico in NTHMP activities

Task 1.1 Participate in and support regional and national NTHMP meetings, subcommittees and activities.
- MMS
- MES
- WCS
- CC
- Regional Working Groups
- Spanish Support

Task 1.2. Place all NTHMP related products on the website http://redsismica.uprm.edu

Task 1.3. Attend and give oral or poster presentations at technical and scientific workshops and conferences to share best practices of the NTHMP and improve the capacity of Puerto Rico in NTHMP priority areas.
- AGU
- IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission)
- WMO
- UNESCO/SOP
- The Tsunami Society
- Caribbean Vulnerability Meeting
- CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency)
ITEM 2. Regenerate tsunami inundation maps for Puerto Rico including local faults, landslides, regional and teleseismic sources

Task 2.1 Re-determine maximum of maximum tsunami inundation limits for all of Puerto Rico from local sources.
Task 2.2  Run tsunami inundation models for local landslide sources affecting Puerto Rico, especially along the Puerto Rico Trench.
Task 2.3 Run tsunami inundation models for regional and teleseismic sources affecting Puerto Rico.
ITEM 3. Improve the understanding of communities, emergency managers and operators of critical facilities in Puerto Rico to tsunami hazards, their associated risks and level of preparedness

Task 3.1 Empower communities and their emergency managers to prepare and strengthen their tsunami and emergency response plans
- 20 (44) municipalities have already approved tsunami response plans,
- 10 municipalities to be approved
- State laws to require mandatory plans.
- Tsunami Technical Review Committee (2 meetings)
- State Tsunami Preparedness week proclamation

Task 3.2. Facilitate the inclusion of tsunamis in critical facilities’ emergency response plans (EPA).
ITEM 4. Improve planning, zoning, permitting and engineering practices to support tsunami resilient practices

Task 4.1 Engage planners, building and permitting officials and engineers to support tsunami resilient best practices.

ITEM 5. Prepare and distribute tsunami evacuation maps for all tsunami threatened communities

Task 5.1 Development, printing and distribution of GIS based bilingual Spanish/English evacuation maps for all 44 tsunami threatened municipalities.

- 20 approved and 13 in process
- On line (http://redsismica.uprm.edu/Spanish/tsunami/mapas.php)
- 2000/Map hard copies
- Google overlays
ITEM 6. Increase and improve awareness of the tsunami hazard and appropriate response by people at risk in Puerto Rico

Task 6.1 Organize and participate in educational events throughout Puerto Rico at schools, local, state and federal government agencies, faith based organizations, industry, among others.

Direct people impacted: 36500+

Conferences: 500+

Interviews: 150+

Webinars: 2

PR Tsunami Curriculum

Flyers, Brochures, DVD’s, Cartoon Booklets, mugs, Coloring booklets, pens, Stickers, pencils, Back packs, Emergency kits

PRSN + PRSEMA + FEMA
CONTENIDO DE LA MOCHILA DE SEGURIDAD

- Botiquín de primeros auxilios:
  - Gasas y vendas
  - Paracaidas y sábana
  - Guantes y tijera
  - Antibióticos
  - Alcohol y agua oxigenada
  - Medicina para dolores y fiebre
  - Otros

- Símbolos:
  - Comida y agua
  - Radio, linterna y baterías
  - Botiquín de primeros auxilios
  - Artículos de higiene personal
  - Barajas o juegos
  - Libreta y lápiz
  - Bloqueador solar y repelente de insectos
  - Bolsas plásticas de basura
  - Dinero en efectivo

Advertencia
- Peligro: Permanece alerta para más información.
- Información de peligro: No hay peligro.
- ¡Una cuerda estática detiene puedes estar en peligro!
Task 6.2. Conduct an annual full day workshop for emergency managers on the Disaster Decision Support Tool for PR.

- Spanish manual
- Summer training
- Summer 2012
Task 6.3. Development, reproduction, presentation and distribution of PR tsunami media toolkit in print, electronic and place on line.

- V1.0
- V1.5
- V2.0 in process
- Two workshops
Task 6.4. Conduct an island wide survey of tsunami preparedness.

- Island wide public survey
- Pre/Post Latex Surveys

➢ PRSN efforts appear to have been largely successful in terms of communicating knowledge about tsunami risks to the exposed population of PR.

● However, findings suggest that more direct efforts to contact and inform the public within the exposed area by distributing maps and brochures and placing tsunami signage are at least somewhat effective in increasing public knowledge about the tsunami threat.

● On the other hand, efforts to reach the population by teaching children seem to be less effective. Respondents with school aged children showed no increase in knowledge or preparedness when compared to those without them.

● The LANTEX exercise itself had an effect on knowledge. However, this effect seems to decay rapidly with the passage of time. This latter effect was smaller for respondents who recall having received information from the PRSN.

● However, as to be expected from the literature on the topic, though respondents who recall receiving information are better informed, this knowledge does not necessarily translate into substantially increased preparedness for a tsunami event.
Task 6.5. Prepare a tsunami response plan for the Summer 2010 Caribbean and Central American Games (Mayaguez and Western Puerto Rico).
ITEM 7. Improve the capability of Puerto Rico to have reliable TWC product reception and the capability to distribute the message to those at risk

Task 7.1 Maintain and improve protocol for the participation of Puerto Rico in monthly communication tests of the Tsunami Warning and create awareness of tsunami protocol for Puerto Rico.
- ATWC/PRSN Warning Points Protocol
- State Protocol
- ATWC report

Task 7.2. Participate in annual end to end communication tests. Organize/participate/conduct state and local planning meetings/activities, table top and full scale exercises as part of the NTHMP communication test and other local tests.
- LanTex
- TOPPOF (Earthquake/Tsunami Top Officials Exercise)
- Local EAS exercise
- Vigilant Guard Exercise
- FEMA Catastrophic
- The Great Puerto Rico ShakeOut (October, 2012)
- PORT and Tourist Authority,
- ITIC/DHS/FEMA Training (2012)

Task 7.3 Maintain and improve local tsunami warning and reception capabilities.
- 22 Warning Sirens (DHS)
- 14 EMWIN Systems Installed and 10 to go,
- 250+ NOAA Radios
- EMNet + CAP System (SJFO, ATWC?)
- 5 PRSN Broadcast Systems, RSS Notifier.
Task 8.1 Assist tsunami threatened communities to meet the TsunamiReady requirements.

- 20 TsunamiReady municipalities, 45% of PR coastal areas (44), recognized.
- Four are in the final stages to be recognized.
- Nine are in the process: East Coast
- TsunamiReady local law
- 1000+ Tsunami Signs
Task 8.2. Organize and Convene Puerto Rico first Tsunami Ready Summit with participation local, national and Caribbean stakeholders (May 2010, Mayaguez).