Learning Activity:
Official and Unofficial Information

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Warning Sources
Warning Sources

3 General Sources of Tsunami Warnings Reaching the Public

- Natural
- Official
- Informal
Natural Warnings

Feel, See, Hear

- Big coastal earthquake (strong or long shaking)
- Rapid sea level changes
- Roaring sound
End-to-End Tsunami Warning

Authoritative Stakeholders

- Regional Tsunami Service Providers (RTSP)
- National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)
- Disaster Management Offices (DMO)/Local Authorities
- Emergency Services
Informal Warnings

(Also called Unofficial Warnings)

- **Media Coverage**
  
  *(Some media may be official sources)*
  
  - Following a warning/bulletin issued by Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RTSP) or other country
  
  - Following public reports

- **People (SMS, social networks ....)**
  
  - Friends, Neighbors, Family sharing information
  
  - Friends, Neighbors, Family perceiving threat
    
    *(May or may not be correct)*
CHALLENGES – INFORMATION FLOW

People Get Warnings: Assumption

- Official Information
- Information flow is linear from one source
CHALLENGES – INFORMATION FLOW

How People Get Warnings: Reality

- Official & Informal (Unofficial) Information
- From many sources at same time
End-to-End Tsunami Warning

Stakeholder relationships interconnected

Challenges:
• Maintain authority
• Minimize confusion
• Manage public info
Exercise: Tsunami Information

- What is Authoritative?
- What is Official?
- What is Informal?

- Work Individually – 10 min
- Plenary Discussion – 10 min

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Unofficial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Tsunami Warning Center</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Tsunami Warning Center</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsunami Warning Focal Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>International TV news media</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local TV news media (agreement/designated by NTWC/DMO)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sirens</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter/Facebook/Social Networks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbor</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call from out-of-town relative/friend</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local emergency management</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local radio station (agreement/designated by NTWC/DMM)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifeguard</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel management/staff (depends if can receive msg)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email/text message (depends who)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: ITIC</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: Faith Based Organizations</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: Amateur Radio (depends)</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: NGO (international)</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: University Scientists</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thank You

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