4.14 Tsunami Preparedness and Response
TsunamiReady, Tsunami Smart, Hotel and Tourism

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‘TsunamiReady’ gives minimum required criteria for tsunami readiness – warning, dissemination, response, preparedness, awareness

Will be consistent across region, but customized by country and community

Links NTWC (Met Svc) with NDMO, and requires both to coordinate and work together

Provide regional ‘name-brand’ that will build recognition and acceptance.
Is a recognition program of the US National Weather Services. Thru a series of requirements communities take specific measures to prepare themselves for a tsunami. When seconds count, TsunamiReady communities are ready to respond and lives are saved....
How does a Community become TsunamiReady?

- Establishing a Tsunami Warning Focal Point and EOC
  - Tsunami Warning Focal Point. 24/7 Operational facilities that can receive and disseminate tsunami products
  - Emergency Operations Center
How does a Community become *Tsunami*Ready?

- **Multiple** Systems to receive Tsunami Warning Products at Tsunami Warning Focal Point and EOC*
  - EMWIN
  - TV
  - NOAA Weather Radio-required
  - FAX
  - Telephone
  - Radio (EAS reception)~
  - Amateur HAM Radio
  - **Internet-California Integrated Seismic Network Display**
  - Email alert subscriptions (http://tsunami.gov y/o http://redsismica.uprm.edu)
How does a Community become TsunamiReady?

- **Multiple** Mechanisms to disseminate the Warning Alerts (in TWFP and EOC)*
  - Radio (EAS, AM/FM)~
  - NOAA Weather radio-required
  - Fixed sirens
  - Mobile sirens
  - Phone messaging dial down systems
  - Other locally controlled methods: VI ALERT
  - Amateur radio
How does a Community become **Tsunami** Ready?

- **Community Preparedness**
  - Designate *tsunami areas in safe zone* (assembly points)
  - Designate tsunami evacuation areas and evacuation routes
  - Install tsunami evacuation route signs
  - Provide written, *locally specific tsunami hazard* response material to public
How does a Community become *Tsunami*Ready?

- Community Preparedness
  - Conduct 1-4 annual tsunami awareness programs

- Schools:
  - Encourage tsunami hazard curriculum
  - Practice evacuations (if in hazard zone)
  - Provide safety material to staff and students

Next CARIBE WAVE/LANTEX Tsunami Exercise: March 26, 2014
How does a Community become *TsunamiReady*?

**Administrative Requirements**

- Develop a tsunami operations plan-
- Biennial visit by NWS official to community
- Annual visit of VITEMA manager to NWS/SJFO
- Submit TsunamiReady application to the US NWS for recognition
Additional Training/Alternatives for in-person Visits

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/

Tsunami Strike! Caribbean Edition

COMMUNITY, TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS 2nd Edition

Tsunami Warning Systems
The TsunamiReady communities receive

- TsunamiReady recognition for 3 years
- 2 TsunamiReady signs for each jurisdiction
- Authorization to use TsunamiReady logo
- Be listed on the website of NWS as a TsunamiReady community
TsunamiReady Benefits

- Increases public awareness and understanding of tsunami threat
- Improves community pre-planning
- Improves preparedness for “all-hazards”
- Encourages consistent approach
- NOAA funding available to support TR efforts through NTHMP/TsunamiReady grant program
- Provides for recognition of communities

Hawaii recognized as TsunamiReady in December 2005
Anguilla Example

Time to Get Ready - Be Tsunami Smart!
Tsunami Smart

- Funded by USAID
- Executed by CDEMA with Seismic Research Center
Anguilla

1rst Joint UNESCO/IOC TsunamiReady Community

• Built on Tsunami Smart and the EU Risk Reduction Initiative
• 24 Hour Focal Point to receive and disseminate tsunami messages
• Tsunami Evacuation Map-based on default – 30 m elevation, 1 mile inland
• 16 Tsunami Signs
• Tsunami evacuation exercises
• Tsunami response plan
• Coordinated by the CTWP

Currently working with the British Virgin Islands
Tsunami Warning Point and EOC, Anguilla

- 24-hour Warning Point
  - Anguilla Police Force Dispatch Office
- Identify the Emergency Operations Center;
  - Anguilla Police Force, 2nd Floor
At least 2 Methods to disseminate Tsunami messages

- Radio interrupt
- Telephone tree
- Local Alert Broadcast System (RDS)
- VHF Coordinated Area Wide System
- Plan for sirens on Police vehicles
- Maritime Band Radio
- BAM Box – Internet notification
- HOT BUTTON

*The number of methods required depends on the resident population at risk, for Anguilla, 1,500-14,999 people, 2 are required.*
Community Preparedness

- 16 locally manufactured tsunami signs in aluminum were installed [$2700 for signs (NOAA contribution) and $200 for installation (Anguilla)]
- 4 Evacuation Points/Assembly areas
- 6 Tsunami Hazard Zones
- 6 Evacuation Routes
Community Preparedness

- Provide written, locally specific tsunami response materials
  - DDM Newsletter
  - Evacuation Map
  - TR Flyer

- Engage Schools
  - Drills
  - Talks
  - Library Exhibit
Community Preparedness

- Conduct at least **one drill a year**
- Participation in CARIBE WAVE 2011
- Plans for another exercise in 2012
Anguilla TsunamiReady Ceremony
December 2011
Two Case Studies in Tourism Preparedness

- FUNGLODE sponsored first workshop for Hotel, Tourism and Safety Sector, July
- Washington State: Publication of “Disaster Response Guidebook for Hotels and Motels” - 2006
- Hawaii Hotel Security Association Tsunami Planning in the 1990's.
FUNGLODE with IOC/PRSN/CTWP/ONAMET/ISU
Workshop for Tourism, Hotel and Safety
July 29-31
First Tsunami focused tourism workshop in Caribbean
Multi-hazard “Disaster Response Guidebook for Hotels and Motels”
Emphasizes use of NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts and types of tsunami messages.
Contains tsunami evacuation maps and general evacuation guidelines.
Contains fillable checklists and emergency contact phone numbers.
Hawaii Hotel Security Association (HHSA)

- HHSA provides hotel security operations 24/7.
- Coordinated development of Hawaii Hotel Tsunami Evacuation Plans for individual resort properties. Tsunami Evacuation Maps included.
- PTWC bulletins defined (e.g., warning, watch, advisory, etc.)
Hawaii Hotel Security Association (HHSA)

- Plans call for *Vertical Evacuation* of guests in coastal hotels that are constructed of structural steel or reinforced concrete buildings of six or more floors.
- Evacuate to the third floor or above.
- Hotel manager on duty in charge. Hotel front desk and telephone operators notify each room of vertical evacuation procedures.
- Hotel public address systems are activated.
- All hotel departments designated specific responsibilities in tsunami evacuations.
- HHSA annually participates in Hawaii statewide tsunami exercises.
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CARRIBE EWS Task Team

- Nov. 13 and 14, 2013
- Meeting in Puerto Rico
- Recommendations for a CARIBE EWS Performance Based Recognition Program
Thank You

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