Regional Tsunami Watch Centres (RTWC)  
- roles and requirements -

Watch

• Reception and interpretation of RT seismic and sea-level measurements
• Determination of seismic parameters
• Forecasting of tsunami arrival times and level of alert at each forecasting point specified by MS
• Exchange seismic parameters and information with other RTWCs and NTWCs
• Disseminate watch and cancellation messages based on the alert-level decision matrix to NTWCs and the TWFPs
• Monitoring of tsunami propagation and disseminate updated information in priority tsunami amplitude measurements
• Capability of acting as a backup centre to other RTWCs
• Function as a NTWC

Above and beyond watch time

• Monthly tests of the watch system
• Procedures and documentation
• Regional tsunami exercises
• Conduct training courses with other RTWCs and IOC
• Participate actively and report to the ICG and WGs

Requirements

• Seismic as well as tsunami/oceanographic expertise
• Direct access to a tsunami and large earthquakes data base
• Real-time transmission systems for reception of data
• Real-time alert reception and transmission systems like GTS, Internet...
• Backup/independent power supply
• Permanent staff on 24/7 watch
• Tsunami modelling capacity to produce and update canned scenarios

National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)  
- recommended roles and performances -

Warning/Watch

• Reception and interpretation of RT seismic & sea level measurements
• Reception of RTWC messages
• Dissemination of warning and cancellation messages to national authorities according to the national response plan
• Monitoring tsunami propagation and update information to national authorities
• Determination of seismic parameters
• Forecasting of tsunami arrival time, amplitude and run-up for the national coastline
• Provision of information to other national TWCs and RTWCs
• Acting as National Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

Above and beyond watch time

• National Tsunami Emergency Plan
• National Procedures (SOP), documentation
• National tsunami exercises
• Catalogue of inundation scenarios
• National tsunami data base

Requirements

• Seismic as well as tsunami/oceanographic expertise
• Access to tsunami & large earthquakes data base
• Real-time transmission systems for reception of data
• Real-time alert reception system - e.g. GTS
• Backup/independent power supply
• Permanent staff on 24/7 watch
• Inundation modelling capacity

Adopted by ICG/NEAMTWS-V (Athens, 3–5 November 2008) — Mandatory requirements are indicated in bold.