

UNESCO-IOC CARIBE EWS Tsunami Ready Performance-based Community Pilot Program

Coastal communities can be better prepared for tsunamis through planning, education and awareness, and the strengthening of their local emergency actions. Recent tsunamis worldwide confirm that when a tsunami arrives and communities are ready to respond, lives are saved and fewer die. Due to the tsunami risk in the Caribbean it is vital that communities also be prepared.

Under the UNESCO IOC and facilitated by IOC's Tsunami information Centres, Tsunami Ready is an international performance-based community recognition pilot. In 2015, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunamis and other Coastal Hazards for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS) approved 10 guidelines for Tsunami Ready recognition by UNESCO IOC. In 2017, the IOC, on the recommendation of its Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-X), instructed Member States to consider piloting the CARIBE EWS Tsunami Ready guidelines and provide feedback on their applicability with a view toward developing a set of harmonized consistent global guidelines.

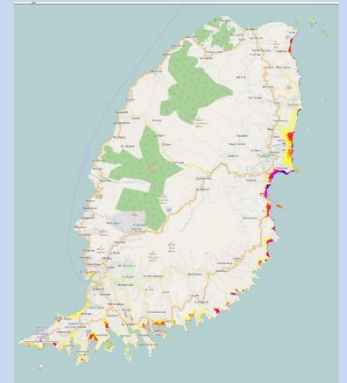
To date, in the CARIBE EWS Region Tsunami Ready pilots have been conducted in Anguilla, Saint Kitts and Nevis, British Virgin Islands, Honduras, Costa Rica, Grenada and Haiti. Additional pilots are being launched in other Member States.

Tsunami Ready Guidelines

Mitigation

Mit-1. Have designated and mapped tsunami hazard zones. The primary source for mapping potential tsunami hazard zones is inundation modeling, which illustrates expected areas to be flooded by the tsunami. The modeling and mapping efforts should follow standards as applicable.

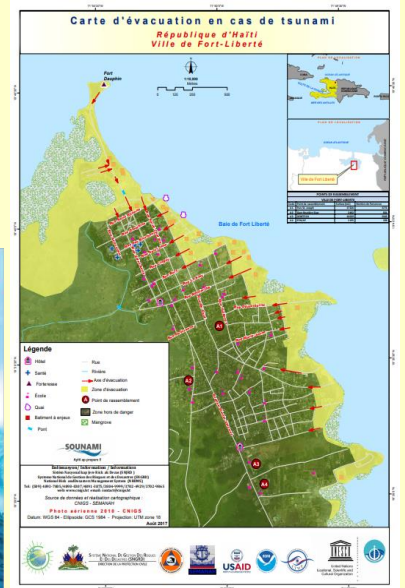
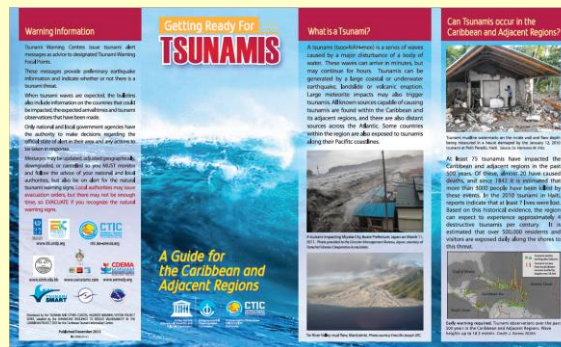
Mit-2. Have a public display of tsunami information and response. For example: (1) tsunami danger area and/or hazard zone (entering and leaving signs), evacuation routes, and assembly area; and (2) provides tsunami response education (go to high ground).



Preparedness

Prep-1. Have a tsunami evacuation map developed in collaboration with communities and local authorities. Maps should depict tsunami evacuation routes and assembly areas. Maps should be based on tsunami hazard zone mapping and in accordance with the community's emergency operations plan.

Prep-2. Develop and distribute outreach and public education materials. These should include, where appropriate, tsunami evacuation maps, evacuation routes, safety tips, and information about when and how to respond to warnings (including natural warnings for regions with a local tsunami threat).



Prep 3. Hold at least three outreach or education activities annually. These educate community residents, businesses, and visitors, with an emphasis on those in the tsunami hazard zone, on tsunami hazards, evacuation routes, how warning information will be received (including natural warnings for regions with a local tsunami threat), safety, and response.

Prep 4. Conduct an annual tsunami community exercise. The exercise can focus solely on the tsunami hazard or can be a multi-hazard exercises that also address the tsunami hazard. The exercises could be tabletop, functional, or full-scale. The exercise should include a communications test.



Response

Resp-1. Address tsunami hazards in the community's emergency operations or response plans. This should consider local, regional and/or distant hazards. If a community-level plan does not exist, other acceptable plans include a countywide EOP or a state or local comprehensive emergency management plan.

Resp-2. Have the capacity to manage emergency response operations during a tsunami. Ensure capability of executing tsunami warning functions (public notifications) based on predetermined guidelines related to tsunami information and/or tsunami incidents.

Resp-3. Have redundant and reliable means to receive official tsunami warnings 24x7. Official threat information may be received from IOC Tsunami Service Providers, National Tsunami Warning Centers/Tsunami Warning Focal Points and/or other officially recognized agencies such as local emergency management agencies. Alerts must be able to reach the 24-hour warning point by at least three different systems.

Resp-4. Have redundant and reliable means to disseminate official tsunami warnings and information to the public 24x7. Alerts must be able to be disseminated through at least three different systems.



Coastal communities seeking the Tsunami Ready recognition should meet all guidelines. For the Caribbean, the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) is responsible for administering the Tsunami Ready Pilot Program. The specific actions required to meet each guideline will vary among communities depending on the types of tsunami hazards and related vulnerability, and as determined by the local, provincial, national or regional Tsunami Ready Board. Determination of the range of plausible local, regional, and distant tsunami threats in a particular community rests with the designated Board, who will consult tsunami experts, CTIC, IOC Tsunami Service Providers, National Tsunami Warning Centres and emergency managers, universities, or consultants. For recognition, a community must complete and submit the Tsunami Ready application form to the corresponding Tsunami Ready Board. Once approved, the UNESCO IOC will grant the recognition.

For more information, visit <http://itic.ioc-unesco.org>

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