



Community Performance-based Tsunami Recognition Programme

Coastal communities can be better prepared for tsunamis through planning, education and awareness, and the strengthening of their local emergency actions. Recent tsunamis in Japan (2011) and Indonesia (2018) attest to the importance of readiness - when a tsunami arrives and communities are ready, lives are saved and fewer die.

Under the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and facilitated by its 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. 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 Tsunami Ready guidelines and provide feedback on their applicability with a view toward developing a set of harmonized consistent global guidelines.

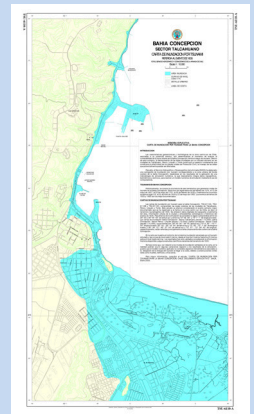
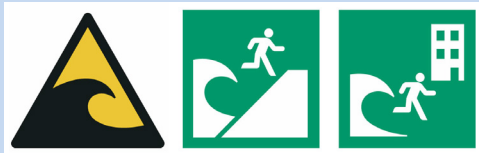
To date, Tsunami Ready pilots have been conducted in 4 Pacific countries (Honduras, Costa Rica, and Samoa) and four Caribbean countries. Altogether, 25 more countries around the world are planning pilots in the next 2 years.

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.

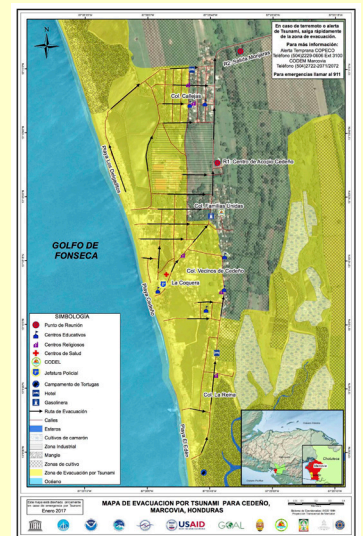
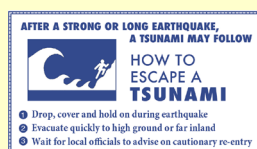
Mit-2. Have a public display of tsunami information. For example, useful are signage that identify (1) tsunami danger areas and/or hazard zones (entering and leaving signs), evacuation routes, and assembly areas; and (2) provide tsunami response education (go to high ground).



Preparedness

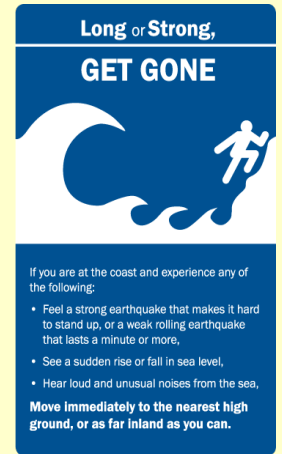
Prep-1. Have a tsunami evacuation map developed in collaboration with communities and local authorities. Maps should be based on tsunami hazard zone mapping and in accordance with the community's emergency operations plan.

Prep-2. Develop and distribute outreach and public education materials. Information should cover, 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 exercise that also addresses the tsunami hazard. The exercise could be a 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 plan. This should consider local, regional and/or distant hazards. If a community-level plan does not exist, other acceptable plans include a county-wide, or a state or local comprehensive emergency management plan.

Resp-2. Have the capacity to manage emergency response operations during a tsunami. Ensure the 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, 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 Tsunami Ready recognition should meet all guidelines. In each ocean, the IOC Tsunami Information Centers (CTIC, IOTIC, ITIC, NEAMTIC) will assist countries interested in piloting Tsunami Ready. The specific actions required to meet each guideline will vary by community and depend on their tsunami hazard and related vulnerability, and be approved by the 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, TICs, IOC Tsunami Service Providers, National Tsunami Warning Centres and emergency managers, universities, and/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 to the community.

For more information on the Pacific, visit <http://itic.ioc-unesco.org>
International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), Dr. Laura Kong (laura.kong@noaa.gov)
IOC ICG/PTWS Technical Secretary, Bernardo Aliaga (b.aliaga@unesco.org)

