

## TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS INFORMATION DOCUMENT

### TYPES OF EXERCISES

The purpose of a Tsunami Exercise is to evaluate the ability of an agency or system to respond to a local, regional, or ocean wide tsunamis. Exercises test communications, review Standard Operating Procedures, and promote Emergency Preparedness. Exercise can be carried out within an agency, amongst several agencies, or by all stakeholders. Stakeholder agencies involved in the end-to-end tsunami warning, as well post-disaster response and the media, can be involved. Pre-exercise planning and coordination and post-exercise evaluation or ‘hotwashes’ are as important as the actual conduct of the exercise. Regular Exercises are essential to maintain staff familiarity and efficiency for the real event, and especially important in tsunami response because of the infrequent occurrence of tsunamis.

There are five types of Tsunami Exercises:

#### **Type #1: “Orientation” Workshop**

- Simple Orientation Workshop lays the foundation for a comprehensive exercise program
- Provides overview of authorities, strategies, plans, policies, procedure, protocols, resources and ideas.
- Brings together organizations (government, NGO’s, private sector) in developing emergency response planning, problem solving, SOP’s, and resource integration.
- Good starting point for jurisdictions that are developing or making major changes to their plans and procedures.
- Determine exercise objectives, scenarios, evaluation elements and standards of performance.

#### **Type #2: “Drill”**

- Drills involve emergency response of single organizations, facilities, or agencies such as a pilot hotel, school, village, etc.
- Drills involve review and testing of a single operation or function in a single agency (i.e. internal communications and/or field activities).
- Performance is in isolation, and a subset of full-scale exercises.
- Limited public evacuation may or may not be conducted.

#### **Type #3: “Tabletop Exercise”**

- A “Tabletop” Exercise involves senior and key staff members of many government and non-government organizations, elected or appointed officials, seated in a large room. Informal, slow paced atmosphere.
- Used to assess plans, policies, and procedures.
- An Exercise Controller (moderator) introduces a simulated tsunami scenario to participants via written message, simulated telephone or radio call, or by other means. Exercise problems and activities (injects) are further introduced.

- Participants will examine, resolve problems, and discuss their actions based on their organization's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).
- Participants conduct group discussions, and resolution is generally agreed upon, and then summarized by a group leader.

**Type #4: “Functional Exercise”**

- Designed to test and evaluate individual capacities, multiple activities within a function, or interdependent groups of functions among various agencies.
- Organizations will test their SOP's using real time simulation tsunami bulletins.
- Tests command and control activities at locations such as emergency command centers, command posts, master communications centers, etc.
- Test SOP's and internal / external communications with other organizations.
- May or may not include public evacuations.

**Type #5: “Full-Scale Exercise”**

- Climax of a progressive exercise program.
- Involves multiple layers of government (national, provincial, local)
- Involves actual field mobilization and deployment of response personnel.
- All local command centers activated.
- Tests all aspects of emergency response.
- Demonstrates interagency cooperation.
- Largest, costliest and most complex exercise type.
- May or may not include public evacuations.

*Source:*

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