

IOC/CARIBE-EWS Established Tsunami Ready Programme

Carolina Hincapie and Christa von Hillebrandt, NWS Caribbean Tsunami Program

The Tenth Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE EWS-X), held in Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, in May 2015, recommended the approval of the Tsunami Ready Programme and the corresponding guidelines for Community Performance Based Tsunami Recognition as a pilot project. The General Assembly of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission approved this recommendation in June, 2015. This Caribbean program is based on the successful US NWS/NOAA *TsunamiReady*® program that helps coastal communities to strength tsunami preparedness and to implement best practices to minimize loss of life and property. Just as for the new US TsunamiReady program guidelines three categories are defined: Mitigation, Preparedness and Response. Communities with plausible local tsunami threats should include efforts that enable individuals at risk for tsunami inundation to

Guidelines for CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Ready Recognition	
Categories	Completed
MITIGATION	
Mit-1. Have designated and mapped tsunami hazard zones	✓
Mit-2. Have a public display of tsunami information	✓
PREPAREDNESS	
Prep-1. Produce easily understood tsunami evacuation maps as determined to be appropriate by local authorities in collaboration with communities	✓
Prep-2. Develop and distribute outreach and public education materials	✓
Prep-3. Hold at least three outreach or educational activities <u>annually</u>	✓
Prep-4. Conduct an annual tsunami community exercise	✓
RESPONSE	
Resp-1. Address tsunami hazards in the community's emergency operations plan (EOP)	✓
Resp-2. Commit to supporting the emergency operations center (EOC) during a tsunami incident if an EOC is opened and activated	✓
Resp-3. Have redundant and reliable means for a 24-hour warning point (and EOC if activated) <u>to receive</u> official tsunami threats	✓
Resp-4. Have redundant and reliable means for 24-hour warning point and/or EOC <u>to disseminate</u> official tsunami alerts to the public	✓

take self-protective actions, in addition for all coastal communities that address regional and distant tsunamis. Corresponding regional and national Tsunami Ready Boards will be responsible for working with communities seeking recognition, addressing their concerns and verifying that they meet the guidelines. . The Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) with the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program (NOAA/NWS CTWP, now named International Tsunami Information Centre, Caribbean Office (ITIC-CAR)) will be implementing the guidelines in coordination with Member States and Territories with the support of regional organizations.