



# **Tsunamis and Tsunami Awareness**

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**NOAA NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program  
c/o PRSN/UPRM**

**2010 WAS\*IS Caribbean Workshop  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
June 10, 2010**

- Currently in Puerto Rico and probably many other places, worry and know more about tsunamis than earthquakes, hurricanes, storm surges....
- This was not always the case!!!!
- Nature has helped...

# Introduction

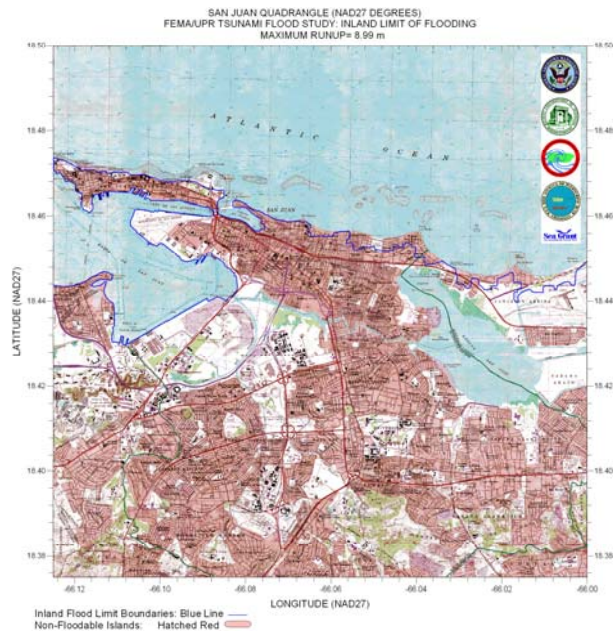
- The road has been long and windy, with bumps and pot holes...
  - The situation 20 years ago
  - Implementation of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Program
  - Scientists and Academicians working with other sectors of societies
  - Lessons learned

# Situation

- 20 years ago, despite the fact that over 3503 had been killed by tsunamis over the past 160 years in the Caribbean, tsunamis were a forgotten danger, overlooked by tsunami warning centers, tsunami hazard mitigation programs, most scientists and emergency managers.... In Puerto Rico few people even knew what the word “tsunami” meant, although many did recognize the word “maremoto”

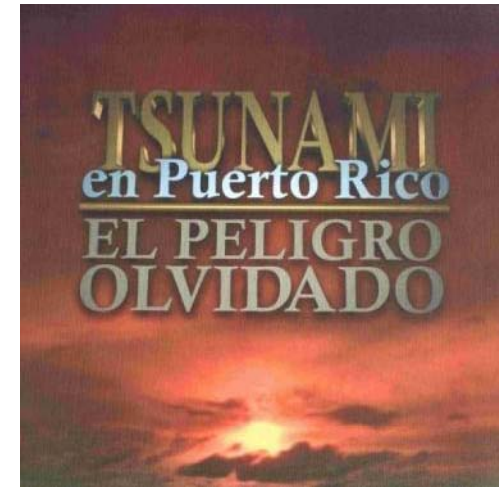
# Then in 2000 with FEMA and UPR funding ...

**Tsunami Flood Maps were generated**



**PRSN at the UPRM began developing Tsunami Warning Capabilities**

**Tsunami Short Documentary was produced**



# More activities...

**Tsunami Signs were installed**



**Tsunami Drills were organized**



**Workshops and meetings were held**





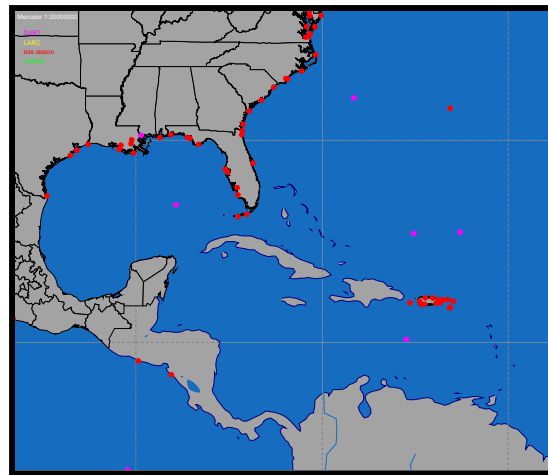
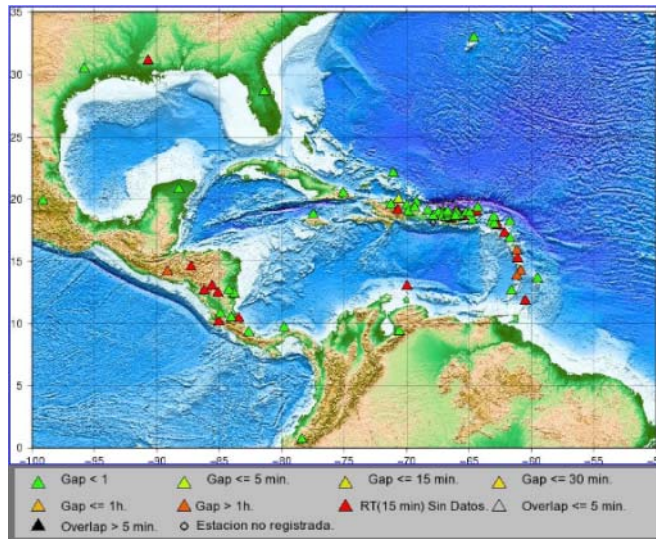
# Tsunami INDONESIA, December 26, 2004, Mw 9.3



# More activities...

Tsunami observational capabilities increased, more seismic stations, more sea level stations

A first “tsunami” broadcast system





# Let's get TsunamiReady™

**2006 Mayagüez first  
TsunamiReady community in PR  
and the Caribbean**

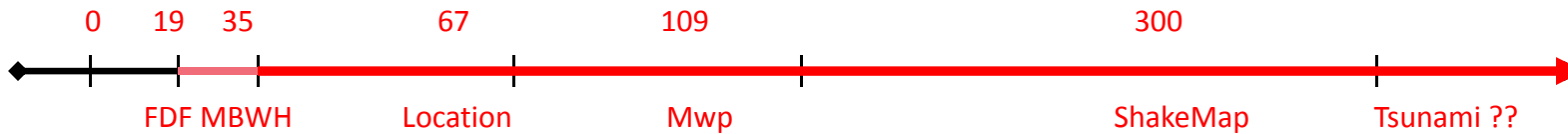


**Host of the 2010 Central  
American and Caribbean Games**



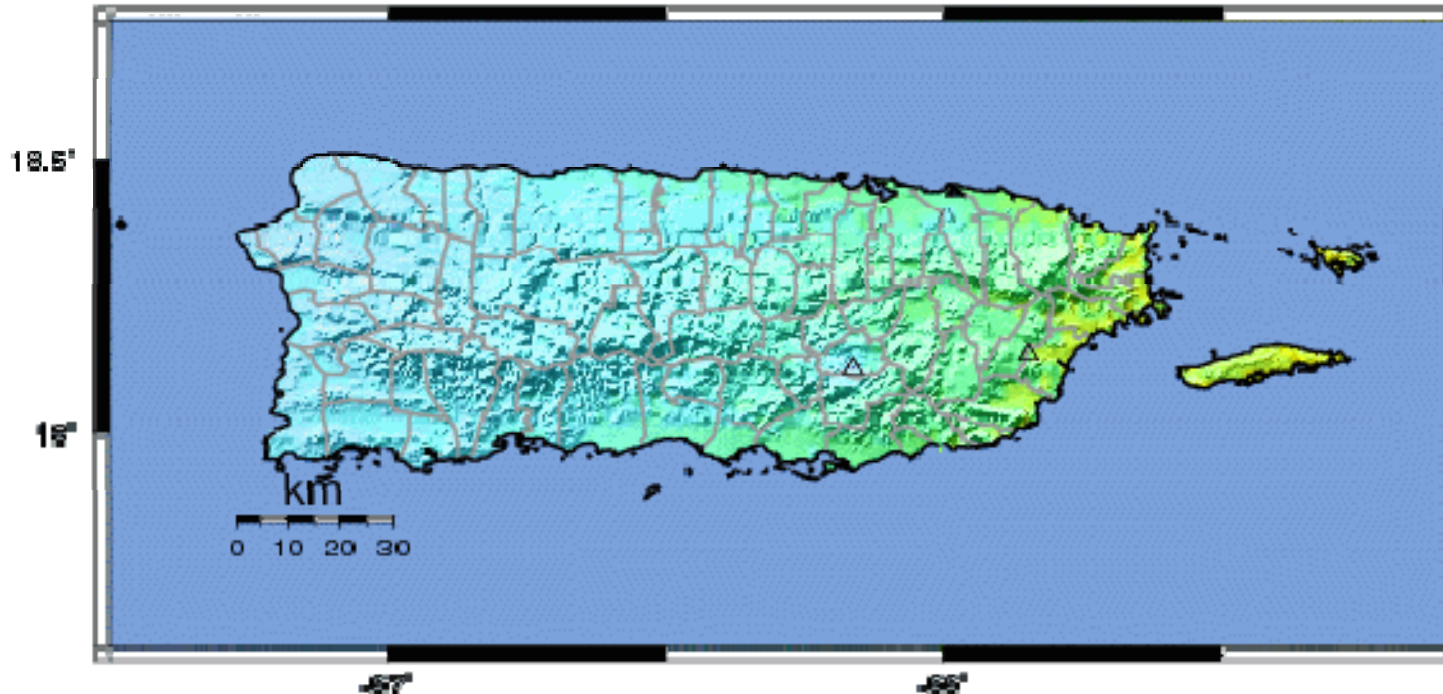
# Magnitude 7.4 - MARTINIQUE REGION WINDWARD ISLANDS

Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 19:00:19 UTC



## PRSN/PRSMP ShakeMap : Dominica - Martinica

Thu Nov 29, 2007 09:00:20 PM AST M 7.4 N15.00 W61.30 Depth:142.0km ID:20071129190020



PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

# PRSN goes 24/7

- Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency provides additional funding to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network for 24/7 operations





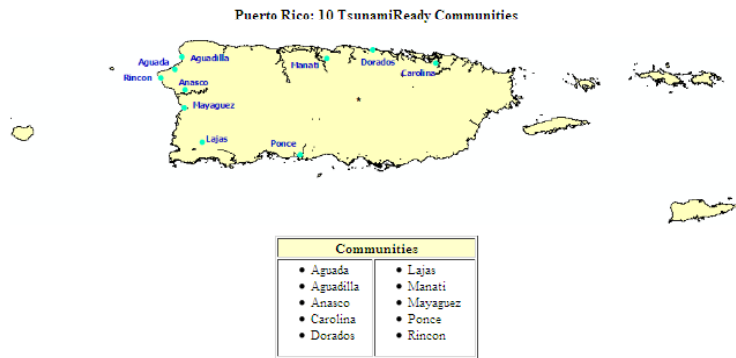
# PR NTHMP and TR Team





# More TsunamiReady communities...

2010 10 of 44 coastal municipalities are TsunamiReady

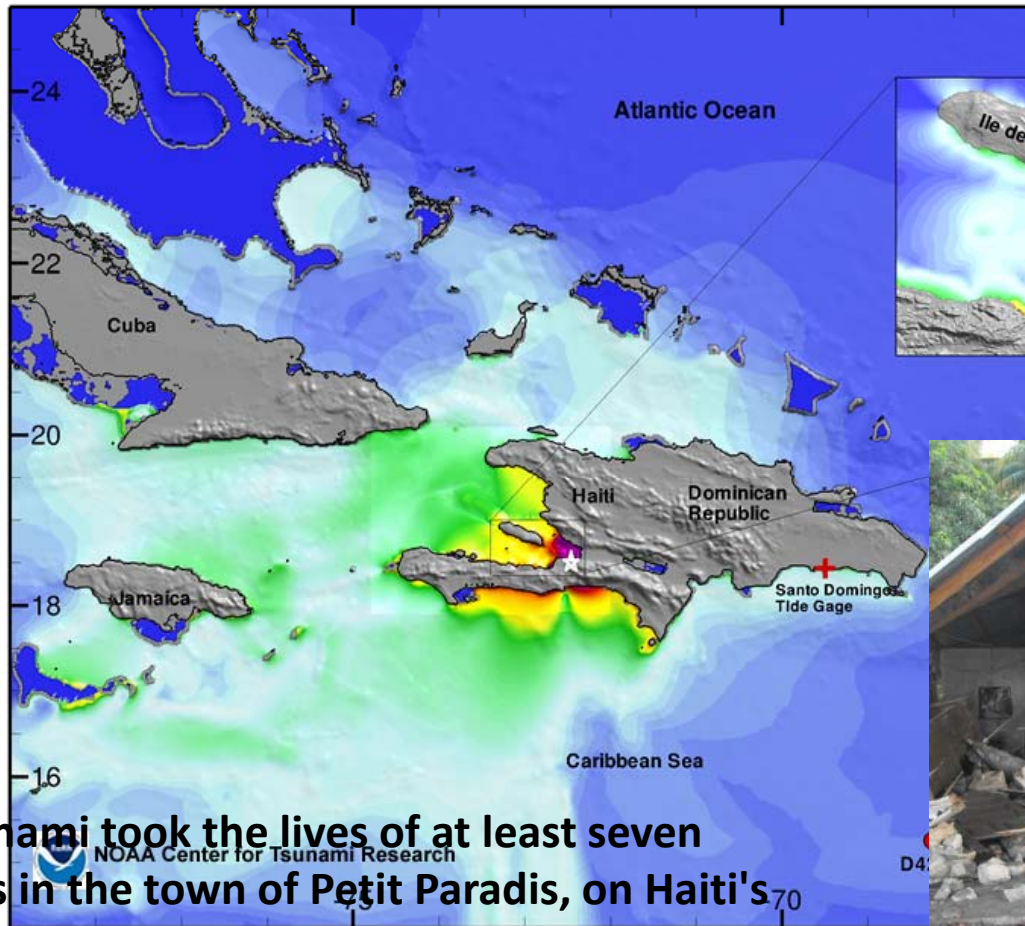


More outreach, drills....



# Haiti Earthquake and Tsunami

January 12, 2010, Mw 7.0, > 200,000 victims (EQ)



The tsunami took the lives of at least seven villagers in the town of Petit Paradis, on Haiti's western coast.

Indication of tsunami runup in Jacmel, southern coast of Haiti





LA CIFRA DE MUERTOS AUMENTA. SOLO EN LA ZONA DEL MAULE HAY 586 MUERTOS

# El maremoto en Chile dejó más víctimas que el propio terremoto

En algunos puertos del sur chileno solo se sintió un remezón, pero el maremoto los sorprendió con el pijama puesto y no lograron escapar.

► **Rodrigo Bustamante, Maule, BBC.** Cinco días después del terremoto de 8,8 grados Richter que afectó a la zona centro-sur de Chile, el número oficial de muertos es de 795, pero el panorama es de pesimismo cuando se observa la destrucción que el tsunami dejó en la zona costera, donde se teme que haya muchas más víctimas.

Cada vez hay más voces que indican que el número de muertes causadas por el maremoto posterior al sismo es mayor que el provocado por el propio terremoto.

Localidades como Iloca, Dichato, Constitución o Pelluhue en la región del Maule sufrieron los efectos del maremoto y quedaron devastadas. La ola gigante entró de madrugada y destruyó todo lo que encontró a su paso, incluyendo a muchos que no alcanzaron a huir hasta los sectores altos.

La región del Maule registra al



**NAUFRAGIO.** Una vecina de Maule busca sus pertenencias entre los escombros de lo que fue su hogar. Las olas arrastraron a la nave hasta el techo de su casa.

# “Everybody” wants to be TsunamiReady...



- A TsunamiReady Summit was held in May 2010 in Mayaguez. It was attended by almost 100 participants from emergency management and earthquake and tsunami monitoring institutions from PR, the Caribbean and US Mainland

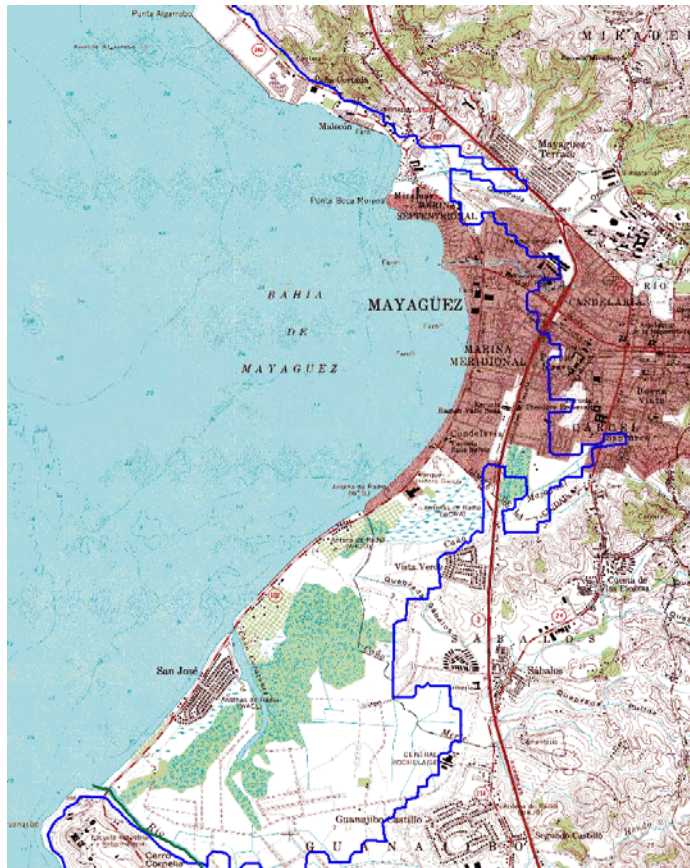
- Recognized TsunamiReady as an effective program to help protect life, property and livelihood
- Endorsed that TsunamiReady be expanded to the non US Caribbean
- Recommended that IOC explore managing international licensing agreements and verification.



In addition to having a steady stream  
of EQ's and some tsunamis...

Some other lessons  
learned along the  
way...

# Important converting the science output into a Public product



# Understanding your community and their needs and understanding...

- State Emergency Management
- General Public
- Media
- Engineers
- Decision makers and elected officials
- Funding agencies
- University Administration
- Insurance
- Researchers

Perception is real.....

# Recognition of your communities is important



Bienvenidos a Mayagüez  
Ciudad



## TsunamiReady

En caso de un Terremoto o Aviso de Tsunami  
Muévase a un Lugar Alto o  
Aléjese de la Costa





# Diverse Workforce

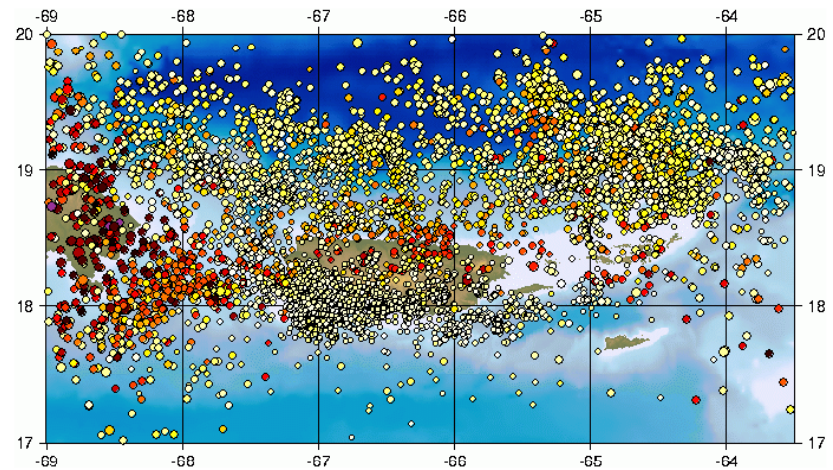
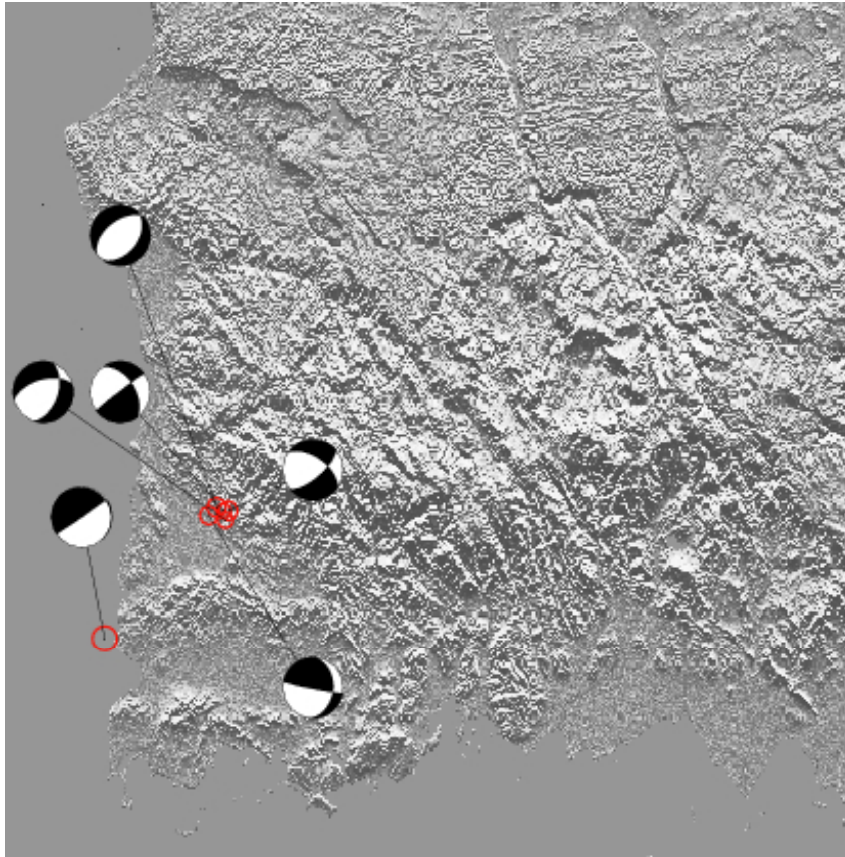
## PRSN's key to success

- Administrative staff
- Technical staff
- Researchers
- Bilingual
- Students and Permanent
- Support from Administration



PRSN Staff in 2008

# Talking the language of your users



# Public Products

**Red Sísmica de Puerto Rico**  
<http://redsismica.uprm.edu> Teléfono: 787-833-8433  
**Centro de Alerta de Tsunami de la Costa Oeste & Alaska**  
<http://wcawts.wrh.noaa.gov>

**4 Niveles de Mensajería de Tsunami**

• ¡Peligro!  
 • ¡Corra a tierras altas!  
 • Siga las instrucciones de emergencia.

**Aviso**

**Advertencia**

• Posibles corrientes locales fuertes y peligrosas.  
 • Manténgase escuchando las instrucciones locales de emergencia.

• Peligro potencial.  
 • Permanezca alerta para mas información.

**Vigilancia**

• Permanezca tranquilo.  
 • No hay peligro.  
 • Una cuenca oceánica distante puede estar en riesgo.

**Declaración de Información**

WEST COAST & ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER

## TSUNAMI SAFETY

A tsunami consists of a series of waves, when they reach the coast they can cause serious damage and also death. In Puerto Rico tsunamis are very infrequent but, they have occurred in the past (1867, 1918, 1946) and could affect us again. For your safety, if you feel a very strong earthquake, observe a sudden rise or fall in sea level or a tsunami warning is issued:

- **Protect yourself.** During an earthquake find the safest place: drop, cover and hold. When the strong ground shaking ends, a drastic change in sea level occurs or a warning is issued, activate your emergency plan immediately.
- **Move immediately inland or to a high place out of the danger zone.** Although not all earthquakes cause tsunamis, nor all tsunamis are caused by earthquakes, very strong ground shaking or a sudden rise or fall in sea level, should be taken as a tsunami warning. If there is a building in good condition, you can also move to the third floor or higher.
- **Go on foot if at all possible.** You may find traffic jams or roads that have been blocked.
- **Stay in the safe zone.** Wait for the emergency officials declare it is safe before returning to the low-lying areas.

Stay tuned to Radio / TV; for more information:  
**Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency**  
 787-724-0124 (San Juan)

**Puerto Rico Seismic Network, UPRM**  
 787-833-8433, 787-265-5452  
<http://redsismica.uprm.edu>

**National Weather Service (NOAA), San Juan**  
 787-253-4586 • <http://www.tsunami.gov>

US National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (Contract: DG133W07CNO342)





# Every audience is important



From 1 on 1 to 3000



# Different venues

## Free learning to formal environments



We (scientists) are not super stars...

“don't try to compete with prime time on TV” and  
“get the “super stars” to support your efforts





The message is getting out...



Maybe not!!!

# Getting the message out, languages and the venues:

- English/Spanish
- On the Web
- Emails
- SMS
- Traditional media
- Social media

## Puerto Rico Seismic Network EQ/Tsunami reports:

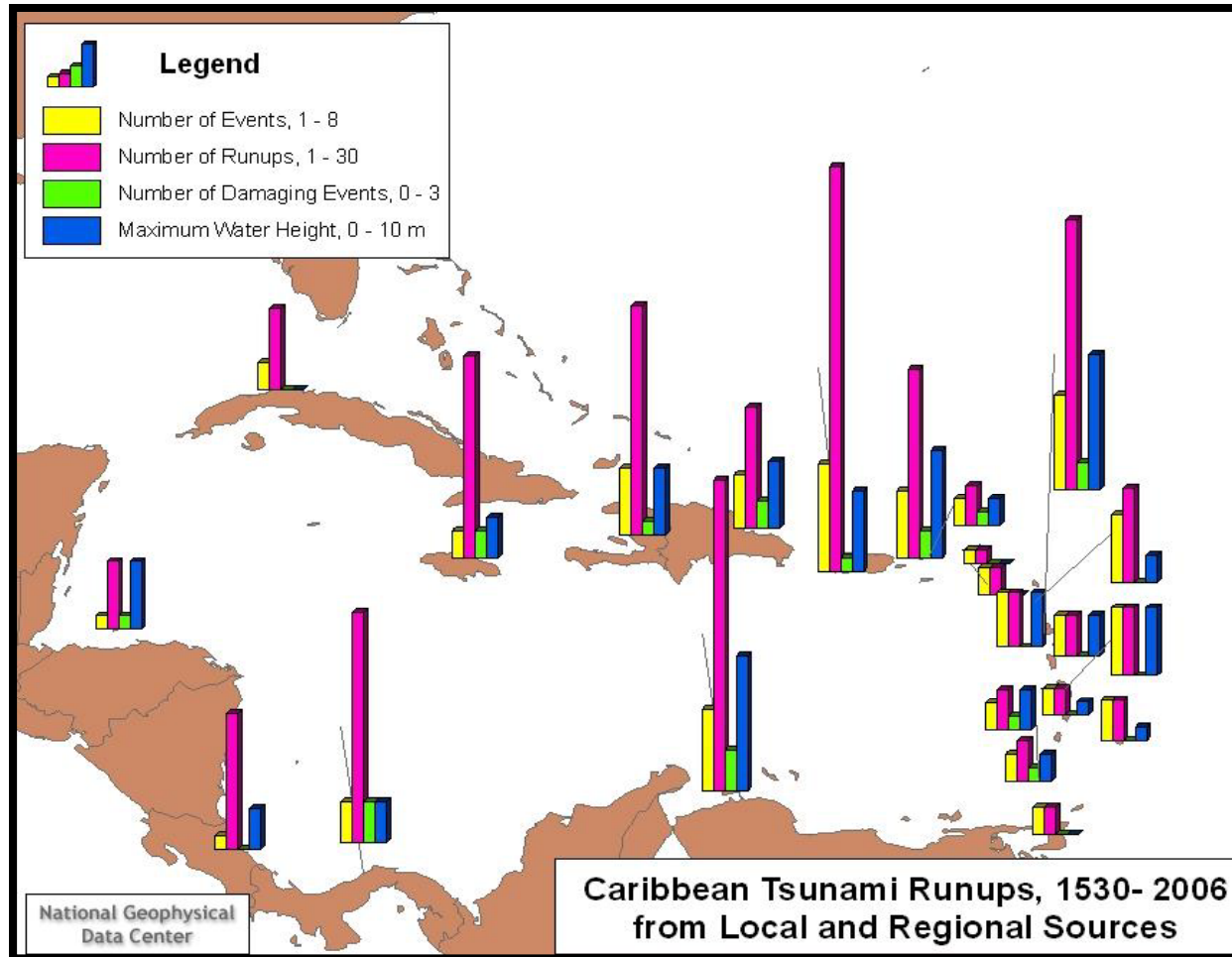
REPORTE SISMICO/TSUNAMI PARA PUERTO RICO E ISLAS VIRGENES  
SEISMIC/TSUNAMI REPORT FOR PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

<b>Magnitud:</b> Magnitude:	• 5.80 Mw
<b>Fecha - Hora:</b> Date - Time:	• 2010/05/16 - 05:16:10 (UTC) • 2010/05/16 - 01:16:10 (Hora Local/Local Time)
<b>Localización:</b> Location:	• <b>Latitud/Latitude:</b> 18.400 °N, <b>Longitud/Longitude:</b> 67.07 °W
<b>Profundidad:</b> Depth:	• 113.1 km ( 70 millas/miles)
<b>Región:</b> Region:	• <b>Región Nor-oeste de PR</b> • Northwest Region of Puerto Rico
<b>Distancias:</b> Distances:	• Moca, PR • •
<b>Intensidad (MM):</b> Intensity:	• VI en Añasco, PR
<b>Event ID:</b>	• 20100516051610
<b>Nivel de Alerta de Tsunami:</b> Tsunami Alert Level:	• <b>No hay peligro de tsunami para Puerto Rico e Islas Virgenes</b> • No tsunami threat for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands
<b>Fecha y Hora de emisión:</b> Issued at:	• 2010-05-16 10:44:26 (UTC) • 2010-05-16 06:44:26 (Hora Local/Local Time)

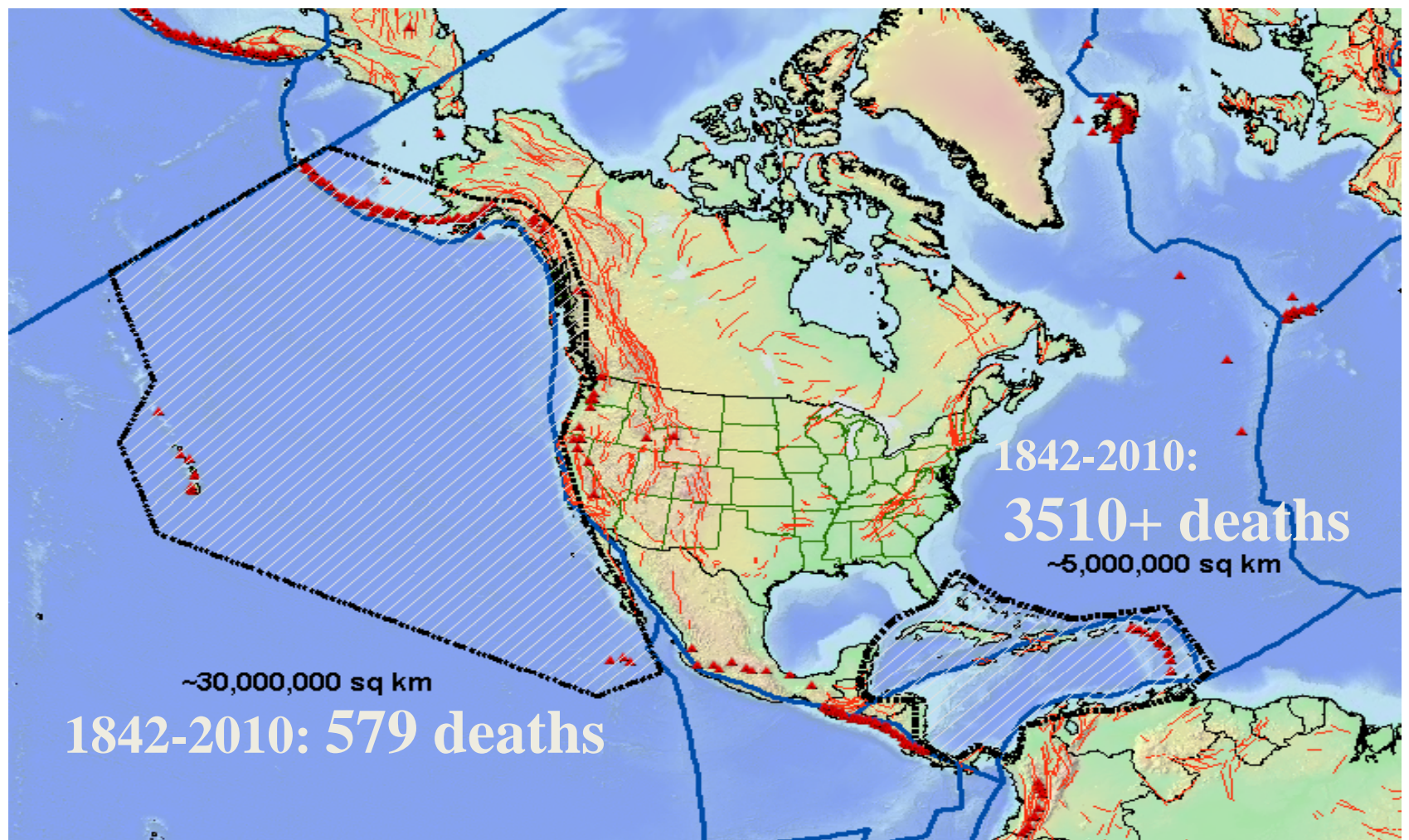


# Caribbean Wide Initiatives

# Tsunamis in the Caribbean



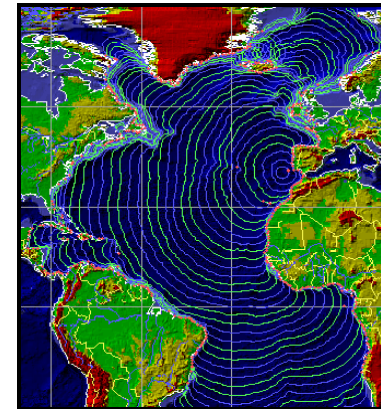
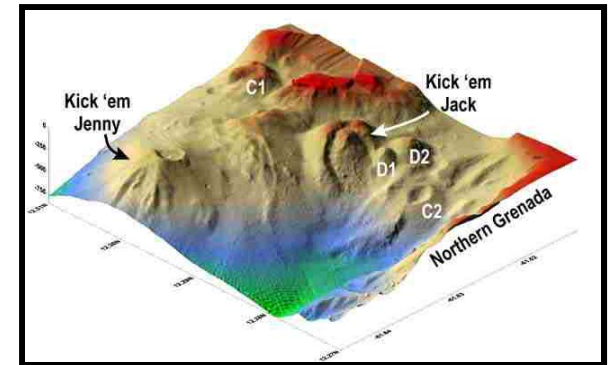
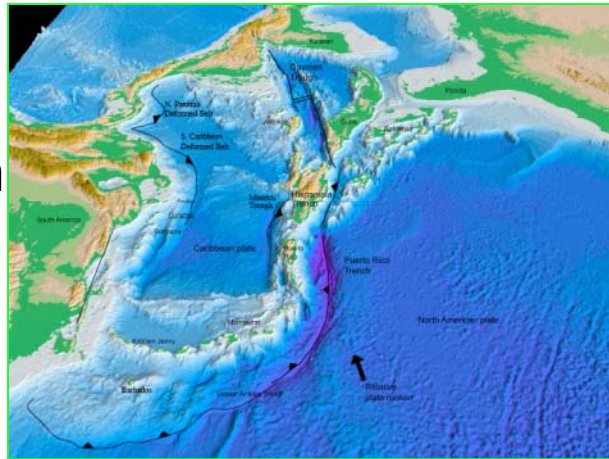
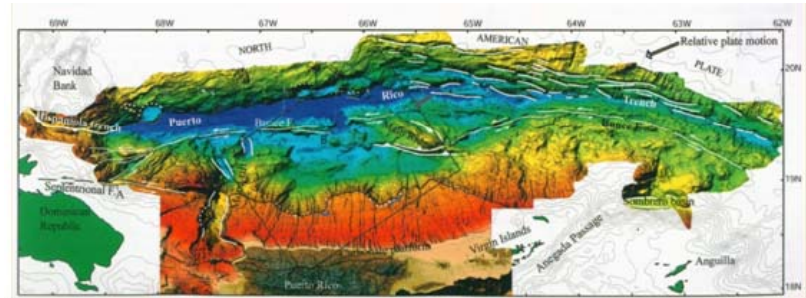
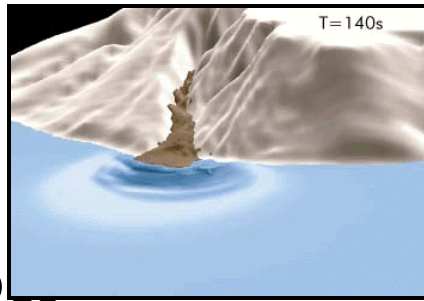
Tsunami deaths since 1842 in two key areas, the northeastern Pacific (Alaska, Hawaii, West Coast States) & the Caribbean Basin (includes Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands). **The Caribbean basin with only 1/5 the area has 6x more deaths !**



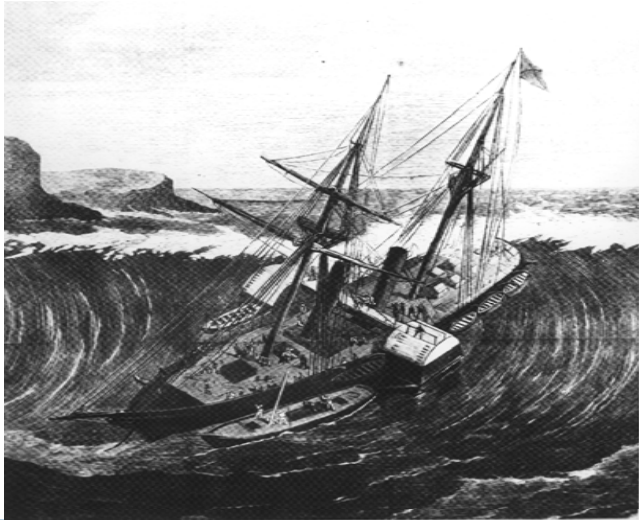


# Caribbean Tsunamigenic Sources, Mostly short-fused

- Local and Regional Earthquakes
- Subaerial and Submarine Landslides
- Subaerial Volcanoes - Soufriere Hills, Montserrat
- Submarine Volcanoes - Kick 'em Jenny
- Tele-tsunami (e.g. "Lisbon" Nov. 1, 1755)



The risk from tsunamis has increased dramatically due to population growth, coastal infrastructure development and tourism



US Virgin Islands, 1867

US Virgin Islands, today



During high season, there can be as many as 25,000 people arriving on cruise ships during a day. During low season, as much as 15,000 people/day.



# Tsunami Warning Centers



PRSN for Puerto Rico and the VI



West Coast Alaska Tsunami Warning Center –  
Puerto Rico and the VI



Proposed Caribbean Earthquake  
And Tsunami Center, UPRM



Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
Non US Caribbean



# Intergovernmental Coordinating Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG-C)

- UNESCO/IOC body
- 28 member states, commonwealths, territories
- Established in 2005
- Sessions held in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010



# Importance of “ownership” Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center

To have been established by 2010

- NOAA NWS established in February 1, 2010 the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, Hosted by the Puerto Rico Seismic Network at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez as a 1st step of the U.S. phased contribution to the establishment of a Caribbean Tsunami Warning Centre



Christa G. von Hillebrandt CTWP Manager,  
with Harold Irizarry, Data Analyst, PRSN

- Venezuela and Nicaragua also have made efforts and technical advances towards the establishment of a CTWC
- ICG VU will consider further contributions of MS to the establishment of a Regional Tsunami Warning Center

# Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC)

- To be hosted by Barbados with funding from Italy
- Signing of the MoU with UNDP expected later this month
- The programme is expected to be launched during the next two months
- Barbados has already allocated office space in preparation for the CTIC's establishment



Takes years to build up a reputation  
and just minutes to ruin it...

- The Institution (PRSN, WCATWC, PTWC, CTWP) is what is important
  - Fast, reliable response to events is critical
  - Availability to respond to the needs of the users groups

# Moderate Earthquake in PR

May 16, 2010

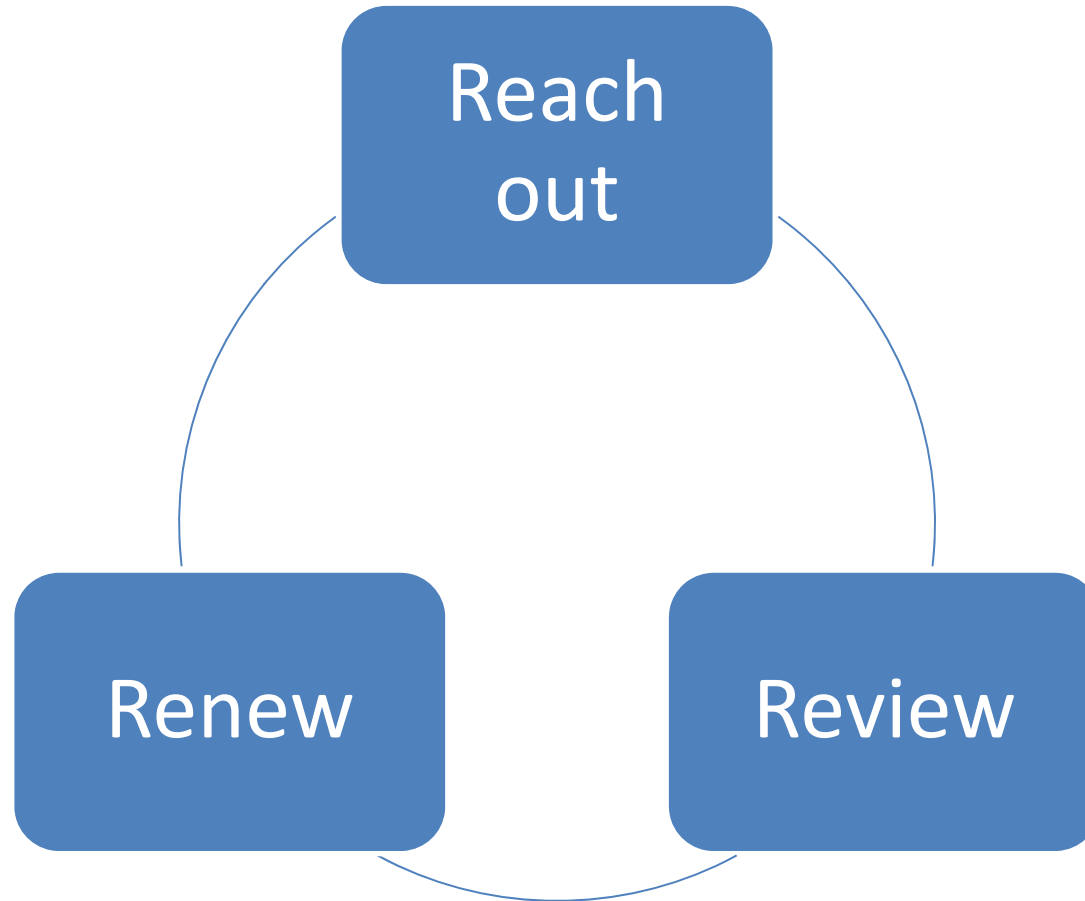
1:16 AM, M 5.8, Depth 108 km.



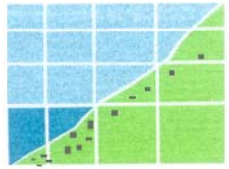
Are we next?



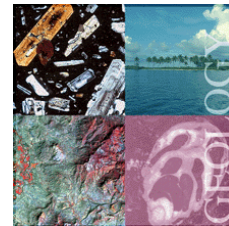
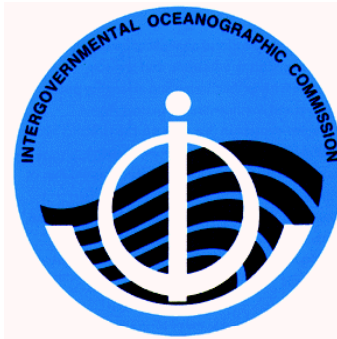
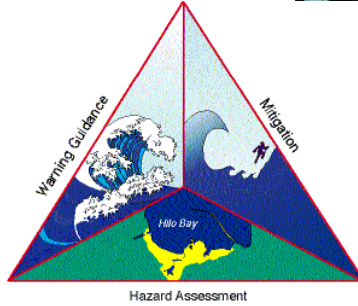
# Keep Getting the Message Out



Thanks...



CISA



# Tsunami Ready

Cuando segundos cuentan,  
comunidades  
Tsunami Ready  
están preparados





# ¿En qué consiste el Programa TsunamiReady?

- Programa de reconocimiento del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología que promueve la preparación ante el riesgo de un tsunami.
- Es parte del programa StormReady
- Esfuerzo colaborativo que envuelve los oficiales de manejo de emergencias a nivel federal, estatal, local, y a la ciudadanía.
- En Puerto Rico NOAA ha otorgado fondos a la RSPR para facilitar que los municipios puedan lograr la designación de TsunamiReady



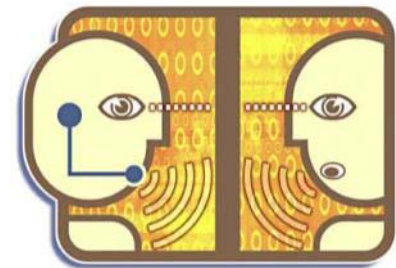
# Objetivos TsunamiReady

- Crear unos criterios básicos que sirvan como guía para que las comunidades estén preparadas para un tsunami.
- Difundir y aumentar el conocimiento sobre los riesgos que representa un tsunami.
- Mejorar los planes de una comunidad ante la eventualidad de un tsunami.
- Asegurar uniformidad en los materiales educativos que se utilizan como respuesta a un tsunami.
- Reconocer las comunidades que han adoptado las guías TsunamiReady.



## Beneficios de ser TsunamiReady

- La comunidad está mejor preparada.
- Aumentan las relaciones entre la comunidad y los expertos sobre tsunamis.
- Identifican las necesidades de preparación en una comunidad.
- Se celebran foros educativos.
- Fortalece la infraestructura municipal.
- Mejora la imagen del municipio



# ¿Cómo una comunidad se torna TsunamiReady?

- Estableciendo un punto focal de aviso de tsunami en la comunidad
  - Facilidades operacionales los 24 horas al día que puedan recibir y diseminar los mensajes de alerta de tsunamis.
    - P. Ej. Policía Municipal, OMME
- Centro de Operación de Emergencias (COE)

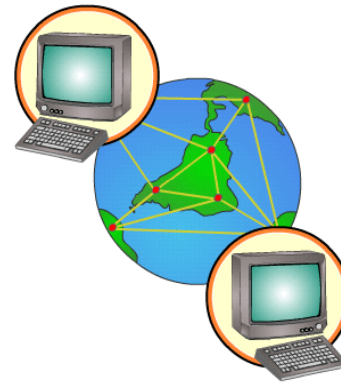
## Punto Focal de Tsunamis en Ponce





# ¿Cómo una comunidad se torna TsunamiReady?

- Sistemas para recibir mensajes de alerta de tsunamis\*
  - EMWIN-satélite o internet
  - TV (mensajes EAS)
  - Radio NOAA
  - FAX
  - Teléfono
  - Radio comercial (mensajes EAS)~
  - Radio frecuencia
  - Internet-California Integrated Seismic Network Display
  - Internet-Sistema Broadcast RSPR
  - Suscripción a alertas por correo electrónico (<http://tsunami.gov> y/o <http://redsismica.uprm.edu>)



\*La cantidad de sistemas requeridos depende del número de la población en la zona de peligro.

# ¿Cómo una comunidad se torna TsunamiReady?

- Sistemas para diseminar mensajes de alerta de Tsunami \*
- Radio comercial~
- Radio NOAA en edificios públicos o puntos críticos en la comunidad
- Sirenas fijas
- Sirenas móviles
- Árbol de llamadas
- Otros sistemas específicos a la comunidad



## Radio aficionados

~ Necesita establecer un acuerdo firmado con la radio emisora

- La cantidad de sistemas requeridos depende del número de la población en la zona de peligro.

# ¿Cómo una comunidad se torna

## TsunamiReady

- Aumentar la Preparación en la Comunicación
  - Actividades educativas para el personal gubernamental y comunidad
  - Tener un mapa de desalojo
    - Designar áreas seguras
    - Establecer rutas de desalojo
  - Instalar rótulos de tsunamis
  - Proveer material escrito a la ciudadanía
  - Realizar simulacros
- Escuelas:
  - Motivar a que se implante un currículo educativo sobre tsunami
  - Realizar simulacros
  - Proveer material educativo



# ¿Cómo una comunidad se torna TsunamiReady?



## ➤ Requisitos Administrativos

- Desarrollar plan formal de operaciones para tsunami
- Visita de oficiales de manejo de emergencias a las oficinas del Servicio Nacional de Meteorología
- Visita del personal del SNM a la comunidad por lo menos una vez cada dos años





# Procedimiento de Reconocimiento TsunamiReady

- La comunidad solicita ser reconocida como TsunamiReady al SNM completando un formulario que está disponible en línea (<http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/ts-apply.htm>).
- El comité local de TsunamiReady (Mojica, von Hillebrandt , Trabal y Huérfano)
  - Evalúa la solicitud.
  - Visita a la comunidad y verifica que cumplan con los requisitos.
  - De no cumplir con ellos, les sugiere cambios para que puedan lograrlo.
- Una vez se cumple con los requisitos, se lleva a cabo una ceremonia de **reconocimiento**, se prepara un comunicado de prensa y se celebra una conferencia de prensa en la comunidad.

## Las comunidades **reconocidas** reciben:

- Reconocimiento como TsunamiReady por 3 años.
- Dos letreros TsunamiReady de la NOAA y dos de la RSPR.
- Autorización para utilizar el logo TsunamiReady.
- Pegatines para los carros oficiales de OMME
- Formar parte de la lista de comunidades TsunamiReady en todas las páginas de la NOAA en el internet.

