

NOUS41 KWBC 181554
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1140 AM EDT Tue Mar 18 2014

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS Partners and NWS employees

From: Michael Angove
Manager, NWS Tsunami Program
Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services

Subject: Tsunami Preparedness Week
March 23-29, 2014

Tsunami Preparedness Week Is March 23-29

At 5:36 pm on March 27, 1964, without warning, the largest recorded earthquake in U.S. history, and the second largest in world history, occurred in Alaskas Prince William Sound. Valdez, Anchorage, and many villages along the Alaska Coast were significantly damaged or destroyed by the magnitude 9.2 earthquake and the tsunamis that followed. Over 130 people died in Alaska, Oregon and California. Damage from the tsunamis alone, which also impacted the west coasts of the United States and Canada and Hawaii, was estimated at almost \$1 billion (2013 dollars).

The 50th anniversary of this event is a reminder that a tsunami could strike the U.S. coastline at any time. To boost U.S. tsunami preparedness, NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey, in coordination with the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, a partnership among these federal agencies and 29 U.S. states and territories, are promoting and supporting Tsunami Preparedness Week, March 23-29. During this week, NOAA and its partners will promote awareness and safety and urge coastal residents and visitors to prepare themselves and their families for a tsunami.

Information about activities taking place across the country to encourage tsunami preparedness and commemorate the 1964 event, as well as links to tsunami-related preparedness information, can be found on the Tsunami Preparedness Week web page at:

<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/tpw/tsunami-preparedness-week.html>

Tsunami Warnings: What You Need to Know

Tsunami warnings are issued through television and radio, community sirens, local officials, text message alerts, NOAA Web sites and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. However, some tsunamis can reach the coast within minutes of an earthquake, so it is important to understand nature's warnings:

Know Nature's Warning Signs

- A strong earthquake at the coast, or one that persists
- A sudden rise or fall of the ocean tide
- A loud, roaring sound from the ocean

Know How to Respond

- Immediately move inland to high ground outside the hazard zone
- Turn on your radio or television to learn if there is a tsunami warning
- Stay away from the beach until officials say it is safe to return (Note: a tsunami is a series of waves that can last for hours. The first wave may not be the last or the most dangerous.)

For more information about tsunami awareness and safety, visit:

<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/tpw/tsunami-factsheet.html>

If you have any comments or questions regarding this Public Service Announcement, please contact:

Michael Angove
NWS Tsunami Program Manager
Silver Spring, MD
301-713-1858, Ext. 106
michael.angove@noaa.gov

NWS Public Information Statements are online:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

\$\$