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PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-13
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1100 AM EST THU FEB 25 2010

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
- FAMILY OF SERVICES
- NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
- EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
- NOAAPORT
- OTHER NWS PARTNERS USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND
INFORMATION STATEMENT DEFINITIONS FOR DOMESTIC
PRODUCTS ISSUED BY THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING
CENTER: EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 2010

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 1 2010 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL
TIME... DEFINITIONS USED FOR DOMESTIC TSUNAMI PRODUCTS ISSUED
BY THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER /PTWC/ WILL BE REVISED TO
PROVIDE BETTER INDICATION OF EXPECTED TSUNAMI IMPACT LEVEL AND
TO MORE CLOSELY ALIGN TSUNAMI PRODUCTS TO OTHER NWS
WARNING/WATCH/ADVISORY PRODUCT SUITES.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REVISION IS TO THE TSUNAMI ADVISORY
DEFINITION. CURRENTLY A TSUNAMI ADVISORY STATES THAT A WATCH OR
WARNING IS IN EFFECT FOR ANOTHER PART OF THE OCEAN BASIN AND
THAT THE TSUNAMI MAY OR MAY NOT AFFECT THE AREA UNDER THE
ADVISORY. THE NEW ADVISORY STATES A TSUNAMI IS EXPECTED THAT
COULD BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN OR NEAR THE WATER BUT NO
SIGNIFICANT INUNDATION IS EXPECTED.

UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS...IN SITUATIONS WHERE A TSUNAMI
WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR ANOTHER AREA OF THE
OCEAN...ONLY A TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED BY
PTWC REGARDLESS OF THE POTENTIAL FUTURE THREAT.

THE REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND INFORMATION
STATEMENT DEFINITIONS ARE LOCATED IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...ADVISORY...WATCH AND INFORMATION STATEMENT DEFINITIONS FOR PTWC DOMESTIC PRODUCTS EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 1 2010.

TSUNAMI WARNING: A TSUNAMI WARNING IS ISSUED WHEN A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI WITH SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD INUNDATION IS IMMINENT OR EXPECTED. WARNINGS ALERT THE PUBLIC THAT WIDESPREAD... DANGEROUS COASTAL FLOODING ACCOMPANIED BY POWERFUL CURRENTS IS POSSIBLE AND MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE. WARNINGS ALSO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION FOR THE ENTIRE TSUNAMI HAZARD ZONE. APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY INCLUDE THE EVACUATION OF LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS AND REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. WARNINGS MAY BE UPDATED... ADJUSTED GEOGRAPHICALLY...DOWNGRADED OR CANCELED. TO PROVIDE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ALERT...INITIAL WARNINGS ARE NORMALLY BASED ONLY ON SEISMIC INFORMATION.

TSUNAMI WATCH: A TSUNAMI WATCH IS ISSUED TO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC OF AN EVENT THAT MAY LATER IMPACT THE WATCH AREA. THE WATCH AREA MAY BE UPGRADED TO A WARNING OR ADVISORY - OR CANCELED - BASED ON UPDATED INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS. THEREFORE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION. WATCHES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED BASED ON SEISMIC INFORMATION WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI IS UNDERWAY.

TSUNAMI ADVISORY: A TSUNAMI ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR THE THREAT OF A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI THAT MAY PRODUCE STRONG CURRENTS OR WAVES DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN OR NEAR THE WATER. COASTAL REGIONS HISTORICALLY PRONE TO DAMAGE DUE TO STRONG CURRENTS INDUCED BY TSUNAMIS ARE AT THE GREATEST RISK. THE THREAT MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE...BUT SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD INUNDATION IS NOT EXPECTED FOR AREAS UNDER AN ADVISORY. APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY INCLUDE CLOSING BEACHES...EVACUATING HARBORS AND MARINAS...AND REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. ADVISORIES ARE NORMALLY UPDATED TO CONTINUE THE ADVISORY...EXPAND/CONTRACT AFFECTED AREAS... UPGRADE TO A WARNING...OR CANCEL THE ADVISORY.

TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT: A TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT IS ISSUED TO INFORM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC THAT AN EARTHQUAKE HAS OCCURRED...OR THAT A TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR ANOTHER SECTION

OF THE OCEAN. IN MOST CASES INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ISSUED TO INDICATE THERE IS NO THREAT OF A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI AND TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY EVACUATIONS BECAUSE THE EARTHQUAKE MAY HAVE BEEN FELT IN COASTAL AREAS. AN INFORMATION STATEMENT MAY...IN APPROPRIATE SITUATIONS...CAUTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTRUCTIVE LOCAL TSUNAMIS. INFORMATION STATEMENTS MAY BE REISSUED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...THOUGH NORMALLY THESE MESSAGES ARE NOT UPDATED. HOWEVER...A WATCH...ADVISORY OR WARNING MAY BE ISSUED FOR THE AREA...IF NECESSARY...AFTER ANALYSIS AND/OR UPDATED INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PRODUCT TYPE LINES AND PRODUCT COMMUNICATIONS IDENTIFIERS REMAIN THE SAME.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT TSUNAMI PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PTWC CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc>

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

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NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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