



Aware

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AWIPS II Continues to Improve NWS Forecasts

By [Louis Uccellini](#), NWS Director

I am happy to report another positive milestone in our deployment of the next-generation Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, (AWIPS II). Group 5, which NWS began installing in October and testing in November, completed its testing late last week, bringing the total number of NWS offices operating with AWIPS II to 63: 42 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO), all 13 River Forecast Centers and all National Centers have successfully Installed AWIPS II.

We will move forward with general deployment to all remaining WFOs. This great news means we are one step closer to providing forecasters with a more robust system that improves their ability to make precise and accurate predictions and issue timely, reliable warnings and advisories.

Our AWIPS deployment team projects all remaining WFOs will have installed AWIPS II by September 2015. The increased capabilities that AWIPS II brings to our field offices are key to building a Weather-Ready Nation. AWIPS II will provide our agency with an open-source, service-oriented architecture that will allow us to deploy future weather products and enhanced services in a more timely fashion.

Attaining this important milestone would not have been possible without the hard work and dedicated support of several organizations and individuals, including our AWIPS prime contractor, Raytheon, regional AWIPS focal points, NWS headquarters personnel, Warngen Template Team members, Activation Board members, numerous forecasters that took part in the early testing, and the Group 1-5 sites.

Thanks to everyone involved for your hard work and commitment, and congratulations on achieving this important milestone. I look forward to providing further updates soon as we work toward the completion of AWIPS II across the National Weather Service.



*Louis Uccellini,
NWS Director*

IAEM Call for Speakers Open through February 20

By [Donna Franklin](#), NWS Awareness Branch

The International Association of Emergency Manager's 2015 Annual Conference will be November 13-18 at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. They are now soliciting applications for breakout session speakers. The 2015 Conference theme is, "Expanding the Spectrum of Emergency Management". This is the premiere conference for those in fields related to emergency management. [Details on submitting an application are online.](#)

Hydrology Products Take Stage in Functional Dam Exercise

By [Julia Dian-Reed](#), Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist, NWS Wilmington, OH

On November 13, the staff from NWS Wilmington, OH, took part in a functional exercise with the Delaware County Ohio Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

NWS Service Hydrologist Julie Dian-Reed helped design the scope of the exercise that included:

- ◆ Simulated Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) forecast hydrographs
- ◆ Flood outlooks/watches and warnings
- ◆ Mock briefing to state/county/local partners in the initial stages of the mock flood event.



Service Hydrologist Julia Dian-Reed, NWS Wilmington, OH, presents the weather scenario to exercise participants.

NWS also briefed partners on the recently updated AHPS map layers detailing the extent of the FEMA 1,0 and 0.2 percent flood areas. The exercise also included state and neighboring county emergency management. NWS Wilmington staff members took part as observers or players in the exercise, allowing them to observe emergency operations center activities first hand. The opportunity gave NWS local staff a clearer picture about how its products and services can impact decision making.

On December 4, NWS Wilmington, OH, staff lead an idea exchange for the Cincinnati Tri-State Integrated Warning Team. State and county emergency management agencies, broadcast meteorologists and Department of Transportation personnel brainstormed on effective warning communication, partnering more efficiently in the end-to-end warning process, TV coverage and warnings for tornadoes, NWS damage assessment surveys, and impact based warnings. The informal format elicited a lot of discussion.

Google Hangouts Featured in Winter Partners Meeting

By [Gary Woodall](#), WCM, NWS Memphis, TN

WFO Memphis, TN, conducted its annual winter partners meeting in December. Over 50 officials from emergency management, media, electric delivery, and school districts attended the meeting.

One of the highlights of the workshop was a demonstration of our remote decision support capability for NWS emergency management partners. We accomplished this by doing part of the presentation remotely from the forecast office. Numerous WFO staff made presentations on the winter outlook, winter weather products and services, decision support and real-time collaboration, and winter weather messaging using web-based tools and social media.

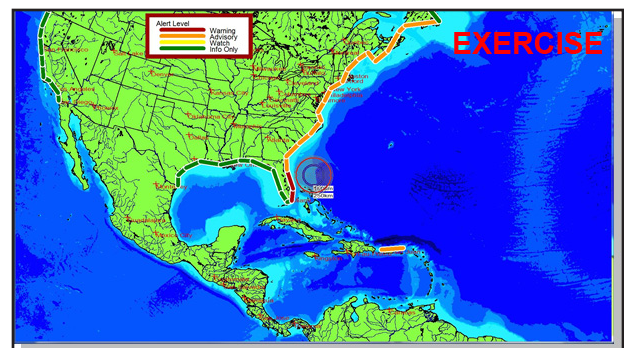


NWS Lead Forecaster Jonathan Howell outlines winter weather decision support concepts.

Tsunami Exercises to be Conducted March 25, 2015

By [Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade](#), Manager, US NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program

On March 25, 2015, three regional tsunami exercises will take place in the Caribbean and adjacent regions (CARIBE WAVE), Northwest Atlantic (LANTEX) and Northeast Pacific (PACIFEX). The U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other regional organizations organize these exercises so emergency responders in North American coastal areas can test and update tsunami



Hypothetical Tsunami Warning/Advisory/Watch areas for LANTEX Florida tsunami exercise scenario of March 25, 2015

response plans. The scenarios are based on tsunamis generated by the following scenarios:

- ◆ Major earthquake off the Caribbean coast of Panama (CARIBEWAVE) generated by a magnitude 8.5 earthquake just north of Panama in the southwest Caribbean Sea
- ◆ Submarine landslide off the Atlantic coast of Florida (LANTEX) generated by a magnitude 6.8 earthquake approximately 215 miles east of Port Canaveral, FL, which triggers a large slump
- ◆ Major Kamchatka Peninsula earthquake (PACIFEX) based on a magnitude 8.6 earthquake

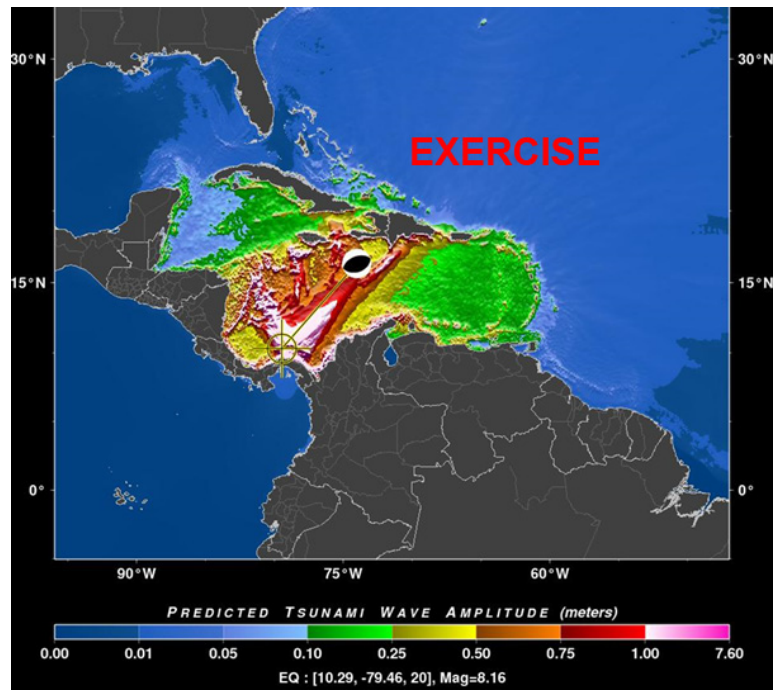
The U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) and Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) will send the messages on March 25 at the following times:

- ◆ Florida scenario: 13:02 UTC
- ◆ Panama scenario: 14:05 UTC
- ◆ Kamchatka Peninsula scenario: 15:05 UTC

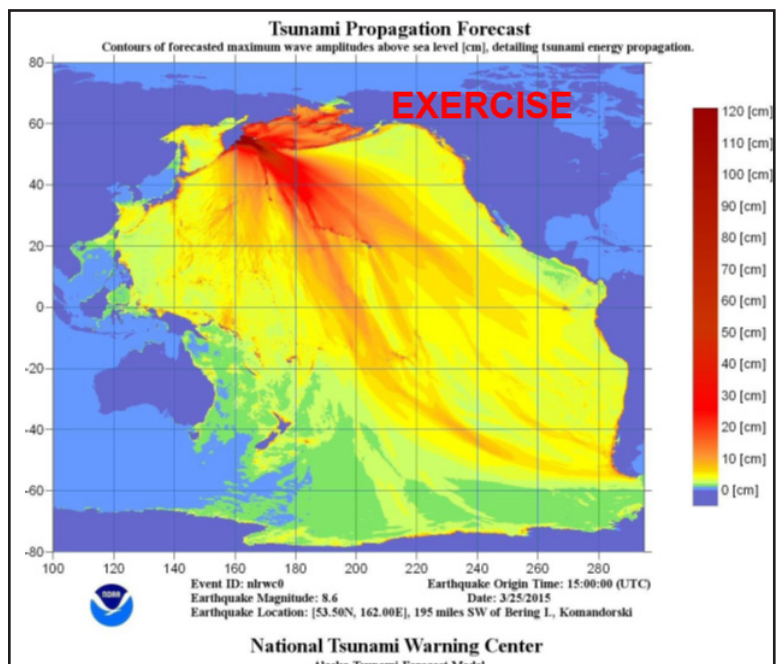
These messages will be sent over all the warning centers' standard broadcast channels. The centers will send the dummy message to test communications with tsunami warning focal points and emergency management organizations and to start the exercise. This test will be the only exercise message broadcast from the PTWC/NTWC, excluding special email messages.

In the U.S., the NWS weather forecast offices and state offices of emergency services will coordinate activities as part of this exercise. The exercise handbooks, background materials and the links for registration and evaluation are online at caribewave.info and ntwc.arh.noaa.gov under the Exercise tab.

High levels of vulnerability and risk to life and property from tsunamis along the Caribbean, U.S. and Canadian coasts should provide a strong incentive for countries and local jurisdictions to take part in this exercise. Even in the northeastern U.S. and Canada, where seismicity is much lower than other regions, tsunamis are a threat and thus planning for such an event is vital. These areas are strongly encouraged to join the exercises.



Predicted wave amplitudes for CARIBEWAVE Panama tsunami exercise scenario of March 25, 2015



Tsunami propagation forecast for PACIFEX tsunami exercise March 25, 2015

Aware

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