



## TSUNAMIREADY<sup>®</sup> SUPPORTER INFORMATION

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Small coastal jurisdictions and non-government entities often establish tsunami safety plans and actively participate in and promote tsunami awareness activities. An entity that promotes the principles and guidelines of the TsunamiReady program but, due to their nature is not eligible to be recognized as a TsunamiReady Community (i.e., they cannot meet the guidelines), may be eligible to be designated as a TsunamiReady Supporter<sup>1</sup>. Potential TsunamiReady Supporters (entities) include, but are not limited to, businesses, schools, churches, hospitals, shopping centers, malls, utilities, museums, aquariums, villages, small communities, state parks, beaches, harbors, and broadcasters/broadcast stations.

TsunamiReady Supporter eligibility and designation is based on the criteria explained in the following pages and is ultimately determined by the local National Weather Service (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM). The WCM may engage the responsible TsunamiReady Board for consultation, but such consultation is not required. TsunamiReady recognition of the county or community in which an entity resides is not a requirement for TsunamiReady Supporter designation. TsunamiReady Supporter designation typically lasts for five years. Participation in the TsunamiReady program as a TsunamiReady Supporter is voluntary.

### Links

- TsunamiReady program: <http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/>
- TsunamiReady Supporter application: <http://www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov/supporters.shtml>
- NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.shtml>

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<sup>1</sup> The availability of TsunamiReady Supporter designations is determined by the local National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist and the responsible TsunamiReady Board.

## **TSUNAMIREADY SUPPORTER CRITERIA**

The criteria that follow are designed to guide TsunamiReady Supporter designation and provide a framework to help the NWS ensure consistency with the goals of the TsunamiReady program.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>1. Have Ways to Receive Tsunami Messages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two ways (one should include warnings, advisories, and watches)</li> <li>• 24/7 <b>OR</b> when entity is occupied</li> </ul>	Additional ways for backup and redundancy
<b>2. Have Ways to Communicate Tsunami Messages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two ways (warnings and advisories)</li> <li>• 24/7 <b>OR</b> when entity is occupied</li> </ul>	Additional ways for backup and redundancy
<b>3. Make Tsunami Hazard or Evacuation Zone Map Available</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One posted in central location for each occupied entity building, if applicable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies posted throughout entity, including all entries/exits</li> <li>• Copies distributed</li> <li>• Maps available online</li> </ul>
<b>4. Conduct Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One annual outreach/education activity that includes staff (may be tsunami-specific or part of multi-hazard activity)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple outreach/education activities for staff, residents, and/or visitors</li> <li>• Tsunami evacuation drills</li> <li>• Participation in community emergency management exercises</li> </ul>
<b>5. Have Tsunami Response Plan with Evacuation Instructions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for entity management purposes</li> </ul>	Plan shared with all entity staff, residents, and/or visitors

### **1. Have Ways to Receive Tsunami Messages**

It is important that an entity has multiple ways to receive tsunami messages issued by the National Weather Service. There are four tsunami message alert levels: warning, advisory, watch, and information statement (see <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/Tsunami/alerts.shtml>).

An entity should have at least two ways to receive tsunami messages. One way should receive tsunami warnings, advisories, and watches (monitoring for tsunami information statements is optional since they typically do not call for action). Having multiple ways to receive messages is important for backup and redundancy in case the primary way does not work.

All alert levels (except tsunami information statement) are provided by the following:

- NOAA Weather Radio
- Some third-party providers via subscription or contracted service
- Some local radio and broadcast/cable television stations

In addition to the providers previously listed, tsunami *warnings* are also provided by the following:

- The Emergency Alert System (radio and cable/broadcast television)
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (on enabled mobile devices for first warning only)
- Opt-in providers from counties and large cities (e.g., “Alert Montgomery,” “ReadyOC”)—many counties and cities offer this free service

Additional providers of email, SMS text, and RSS feeds for tsunami and other weather emergency messages and alerts are listed here: <http://www.weather.gov/subscribe>. Tsunami-specific information is here: <http://www.tsunami.gov/sources.php>.

An entity should monitor for messages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **OR** at least during the hours that it is occupied by staff, residents, and/or visitors (e.g., a market would only be required to monitor for messages when it is open).

## **2. Have Ways to Communicate Tsunami Messages**

In addition to having ways to receive tsunami messages, entities should also have at least two ways to communicate tsunami warnings and advisories (at least) to staff, residents, and/or visitors. An entity should be equipped to provide these tsunami messages 24 hours a day, 7 days a week **OR** at least during the hours that it is occupied by staff, residents, and/or visitors.

Communication methods include the following:

- Public address announcements (fixed or mobile)
- Outdoor and indoor warning sirens
- Email and/or text service
- Telephone mass notification system
- Door-to-door notification
- Programmable internal emergency notification systems
- Lifeguards on beaches and on patrol
- Entity-controlled local television cable channel
- Posting of message on entity intranet, website, and/or social media

## **3. Make Tsunami Hazard or Evacuation Zone Map Available**

A tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map should be available to entity staff, residents, and/or visitors. At a minimum, the tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map should be clearly posted in a central entity location, where all staff, residents, and/or visitors are likely to commonly use or pass through. At least one tsunami map should be posted in each occupied building owned, used, and/or operated by an entity, if applicable. For entities like shopping malls or others without a clear center and with multiple possible entry and exit points, it is recommended that maps be prominently displayed at all major entry and exit points (since people may use only a part of the facility). Posted maps should be clear, simple, and large enough to read from at least a few feet away.

It is also recommended that maps be distributed to staff, residents, and/or visitors and posted online (e.g., intranet or website). If an entity is residential (e.g., hotel or condominium) or has

occupants (e.g., school or hospital), maps may be provided to each room or posted on the back of entry and exit doors used by staff and the public.

If an official tsunami hazard or evacuation zone map is not available, an entity should develop one that indicates the best estimate of the location of tsunami hazard areas (e.g., beaches and areas of low elevation) using information from the National Weather Service and appropriate local authorities and experts. In areas without tsunami specific maps, hurricane storm surge inundation maps may be used as an alternative approximation of potential tsunami inundation.

#### **4. Conduct Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Activities**

Conducting tsunami awareness and preparedness activities at an entity's site is important, and at least one major outreach/education activity should be offered each year. These activities may be multi-hazard as long as they include tsunamis in the content. Possible activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Multi-hazard events or presentations
- Adding on to Great Shakeout drills
- Tsunami safety workshops
- Leveraging of state and local Tsunami Preparedness Week/Month campaigns
- Staff training
- Mass emails from top officials
- Broadcast public announcements
- Safety "standdown" activities

A combination of these activities throughout the year is recommended. At a minimum, outreach/education activities should be conducted for entity staff. Where possible, it is strongly encouraged that these activities also be conducted for an entity's residents and/or visitors.

The NWS recommends that entities participate in community exercises conducted by local or state emergency management and host tsunami evacuation drills. Evacuation drills (tsunami walks) help staff and regular visitors become familiar with how to respond to a tsunami warning: what to do, where to go, how to get there, etc.

#### **5. Have Tsunami Response Plan with Evacuation Instructions**

Entities should have a written plan that describes how they will respond when a tsunami message is received. This does not have to be a formal emergency response plan, but it should at least:

- Designate staff to monitor tsunami messages,
- Identify timeframes during which tsunami messages are monitored,
- Designate whom to notify when a tsunami message is received, and
- Identify response protocols for each tsunami message alert level.

At a minimum, this plan should be developed and shared with an entity's management. Ideally, it is available to an entity's staff, residents, and/or visitors (e.g., posted on intranet or public website or in common area).