



WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS 5 NOVEMBER 2016 DAY

COMMEMORATION IN THE CARIBBEAN
20 OCTOBER 2016, PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Tsunami risk and Anguilla

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1. Objectives

- Background
- TsunamiReady
- Anguilla Warning System
- Inundation Mapping and Signs
- Tsunami Preparedness
- Seismic Risk Reduction
- Conclusions

2. Anguilla



- The Caribbean is a region prone to many natural hazards. Tropical Cyclones , Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions are the reality in this region. The latter two hazards in the preceding example also make us vulnerable to Tsunami events.
- This is compounded by the fact that Tourism is Anguilla's main product!



2. Anguilla



- A flat 35square mile island, the most northerly of the Leeward Islands is surrounded by the crystal clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea to the South and the deep aquamarine blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean to the North.
- Its highest point of 210 feet, Crocus Hill, is located to the north central portion of the island.
- This tranquil isle is inhabited by some 13,000 warm and friendly people.



3. TsunamiReady

- First international English-speaking Caribbean island to be recognized as TsunamiReady in September 2011 and again in 2014
- Guidelines to attain that status:
 - an established warning point and emergency operations center.
 - Possess multiple methods of receiving tsunami alert warning information exist.
 - Multiple methods of disseminating a tsunami alerts to the populations
 - designated tsunami hazard zones.
 - evacuation and response plans.
 - community tsunami awareness program



3. TsunamiReady

- Tsunami Warning Focal Point /Police Dispatch
 - trained in procedures used to receive, analyse and retransmit tsunami alert messages from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.
 - Officers are also trained as per the warning protocol within Anguilla’s Tsunami Plan to activate the Anguilla Warning System if necessary
 - Multiple means of receiving tsunami alert information are present in the TWFP (Police Dispatch)
 - EMWIN
 - Email
 - Fax
 - Telephone



4. Anguilla Warning System

- The Anguilla Warning System (AWS) is a Common Alert Protocol (CAP) based public alert system.
- Methods of disseminating information to the public include :
 - FM Radio Broadcast Interruption
 - Weather radio
 - Email notification
 - RDS Alert Receivers
 - **Android and IOS app (coming soon)**



4. Anguilla Warning System

- A Tsunami threat elicits a Level III response of the AWS.
- In a Level III event all notification methods are activated at their highest priorities.
- Depending on the estimated time to impact the Tsunami Warning Focal Point can activate this Level III alert according to Anguilla's Tsunami Plan with a simple push of a switch



5. Inundation Mapping and Signs

- Anguilla's Tsunami Inundation map was prepared with the help of NOAA and in the absence of bathymetry data it was prepared with the international rule of thumb of a 100ft wave height and one mile inland inundation.



5. Inundation Mapping and Signs



6. Tsunami Preparedness

- Primary School Tsunami Evacuation Plans
- Annual Drills (schools, communities, NEOC)
- National Tsunami Plan
- Sensitisations to public and private institutions such as schools, hotels, Banks, elder care facilities
- Community Meetings
- Library displays
- Business Continuity



6. Tsunami Preparedness

- Outreach Materials (brochures, colouring book)
- Annual All Hazard, Risk Reduction and Safety Fair
- Ministerial Presentations
- Public Service Announcements – tsunami tips
- Sector consultations
- Radio “Call in” programmes
- CERT training



6. Seismic Risk Reduction

- Drills (schools, communities, NEOC)
- Hazard Inspection Programme
- Director is a Member of the Planning Board
- Geological Map produced
- MoU signed with Puerto Rico Strong Motion Program
- Sensitisation to public and private sector
- Outreach (materials, PSAs)

7. Conclusions - Challenges

- Level of Community participation
- Paradigm shift in the perception of tsunamis and Anguilla –
 - ‘Tsunami? Death is inevitable’
 - It will never happen
- Resources (mainly financial)
- Change in procedure/personnel
- Vandalism and nature
- Signs? What Signs?

7. Conclusions - sustainability

- Resource allocation e.g maintenance (signs, AWS)
- Training and drills
- Sensitisation (tsunamis and AWS)
- Support of community groups such as CERTs



What Does This Mean for Anguilla?

WE NEED TO BE PREPARED!

Complacency is our enemy, and always will be.

Preparation is key to ensuring that when a disaster strikes we are able to minimize its impact.

Thank you



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Commemoration in the Caribbean
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