

R3I Meetings – Aruba Kickoff
4 May 2011
Caribbean Warning for Tsunami and Coastal Hazard Events

CARIBEWAVE/LANTEX 2011
ANGUILLA Community Exercise
ICG CARIBE WG3

CARIBE WAVE 2011 Tsunami Exercise Summary

34 countries and territories* participated in the 1st Caribbean regional tsunami exercise, CARIBE WAVE 23 March 2011.

Was conducted under the framework of the UNESCO IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (**ICG CARIBE/EWS**).

This represents a **participation rate of almost 90%** of the nations in the region that have nominated **Tsunami Warning Focal Points** and National Contacts in the region and **75% of all the countries and territories in the region**.

TWFP MUST be 24x7x366
GTS or EMWIN to receive the PTWC/ATWC messages
EMWIN TRAINING (February/May 2011)

PTWC Message Dissemination

- .GTS** (must subscribe to these products)
 - WECA43 PHEB (Information Statements)
 - WECA41 PHEB (Watch Messages)
- .AFTN** (need AFTN Address)
- .EMWIN** (need EMWIN System)
- .FAX** (need Fax Number)
- .EMAIL** (need email address)
- .RANET** (need phone number for SMS)

PTWC Communication Tests

- .Purpose**
 - Confirm all designated methods for message communication between PTWC and TWFPs
 - Confirm PTWC messages are quickly recognized when received by TWFPs
- .Two Regular Intersessional Tests**
 - July 13, 2010
 - September 11, 2011

Overview

All of the participants of CARIBE WAVE were able to **test the communications systems** between the warning centers and the officially designated TWFP.

The participants received the messages by Fax, Email, EMWIN (Emergency Managers Weather Information Network) and/or the GTS (Global Telecommunication Systems). Sirens, text messages, emails, emergency alert systems, media outlets, NOAA weather radio.

Traditional telephone calls (**POTS**) were then used by many TWFP to disseminate the messages to the government authorities and the public.

Given the ample awareness campaigns that were conducted in preparation for the event, **no false alarms were reported**.

In addition to the communication test, **exercises were conducted at various additional levels of magnitudes and sophistication** and included seminars, table top exercises and drills. Several countries used the opportunity to review their protocols for issuing "All Clear" messages after a Tsunami strike.

Anguilla
 ALIVE
 Tsunami Evacuation Exercise

Anguilla CTEEx

- Started Pilot Community Risk Reduction Programme week after HC Earl Sept 2010;
- Selected 2 communities, 1 tsunami and surge (School and Petrol proximity), 1 flooding and access (Museum and Clinic)
- Community Risk Reduction Committee/Council (CRRC)
- Alert Team/Risk Mitigation Team (RMT)

Anguilla CTEEx – IH Oct-Jan

- Work Programme with monthly commitments;
- Identification of top hazards and risks (Safe Navigation, School Location, Access);
- Identify Top Mitigation Priorities (Buoys, Sea Wall, Evacuation Route, Dredging and Cache);
- Overview of NDO; and
- Discussion on CaribWAVE and Buy In.

Anguilla CTEEx Jan-Mar 2011

- Demonstration of National Warning System;
- Distribution of Outreach Materials (Map)
- Field testing with community of Local NWS Components;
- Meeting with teachers to capacity build on Tsunamis, NWS and CaribWAVE;
- Training on EMWIN and CaribeWAVE to TWFP; and
- Testing (several issues found)

Anguilla CTEEx 23 March 2011

- Exercise was a live evacuation exercise;
- Included the primary school, private kindergarten and community members;
- 0906 Tsunami WATCH received and NWS activate;
- RDS activated and teachers activated the tsunami bell alarm protocol;
- Community activated the Fishermen's Emergency Network; and
- Everyone headed up into The Keys

Issues Identified/Lessons learned

- Community must own the process from the beginning;
- Local knowledge critical (no one size fits all);
- Commitment for long term engagement key;
- Little at a Time -vs- Rapid Implementation;
- Community more than willing to own the community level notification; and
- Important to find back up funding for committed to deliverables.

- School identified/agreed need for plan;
- All participants “took less time than expected”;
- Students previously were overwrought ended up being the champions;
- DM Inundated with requests for similar community exercises;
- Don't over commit, starting with education materials and information on the CRRC programme; and
- Moved on to one more school and one more community 2011.

Broad Participation

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- Broad participation with 34 participating countries, excellent considering it was the first time a regional exercise was held.
- Japan's tragedy "helped"



Evacuations in Anguilla and Virgin Islands

09.05.2011

EXERCISE EVALUATION

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- On line questionnaire
(<http://nthmp.tsunami.gov/exercise2011.php>)
- 33 completed questionnaires were received from 35 countries
- Of two of the countries, Canada (did not participate) and Peru (member outside the region)
- Two countries participated, but did not fill out the report (Bahamas y St. Eustatius)
- 28 other local and private institutions submitted reports.

09.05.2011

The Survey Details

- 33% of the respondents indicated that schools participated
- In 50% private institutions and organizations also participated,
- 83% reported that they found the format of the exercise satisfactory
- 90% of the Tsunami Warning Focal Points received in a timely fashion the "dummy" message sent by the Tsunami Warning Centers to start the exercise.
- 90% of the participants found the bulletins to be clear, while 37% indicated that more content should be added.
- 87% of the countries signed up to receive emails with the actual TWC products
- 40% of the participants indicated that in addition to the products of the TWC, they received special products from another agency, for example, Met Services, Seismic Networks and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency.

More Details

- While 50% of the respondents had a tsunami response plan and 70% that actions were laid out to respond to a tsunami, only 47% indicated that it was adequate to address a tsunami threat.
- 60% of the countries received feedback from the public
- Although only 40% of the countries reported participation in the webinars,
 - 100% indicated that they were useful for training and coordination
 - 100% indicated the exercise was helpful in validating or highlighting the need for tsunami planning.
 - The fact that the population and press has a high interest and awareness on these matters is important.

IOC UNESCO/ICG CARIBE TCHEWS VI
Santo Domingo
April 26-29 2011

ICG CARIBE VI – WG3 Dissemination and Information

- Agreed tests will be done monthly with PTWC to TWFP;
- Agreed TWFP/TNC will only report issues from monthly tests;
- Agreed twice yearly "No Notice" tests with required reporting of successful and no successful notification;
- Agreed all reporting will be within 1 HOUR of the tests to build familiarization; and
- Agreed countries will document PTWC to TWFP message flow.

Take Aways

There is an absolute need to reinforce preparedness, evacuation plans and involvement of communities and private sector in tsunami readiness.

The fact that the population and press has a high interest and awareness on these matters is important.

ICG CARIBE, R3i, WMO and many partners are working on this regional early/public warning initiative

The next CaribeWAVE is scheduled for March 2013.