

# City of Yachats – Distant Tsunami Plan

## Appendix G

## **Distant Tsunami Notification Definitions** **Updated October 2011**

(This information provided by NOAA, OEM and DOGAMI)

**Tsunami Warning:** A Tsunami Warning is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate 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 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 Advisory:** A Tsunami Advisory is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water. The threat may continue for several hours after the initial arrival, but significant 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 Watch:** A Tsunami Watch is issued to alert emergency management officials and the public of an event that which 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 Information Statement:** A Tsunami Information Statement is issued to inform emergency management officials and the public that an earthquake has occurred, or that 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 as 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.

## **Distant Tsunami Goals**

- Restore City Infrastructure damaged by the event as quickly as possible. Infrastructure includes:
  - Water systems including collection, conversion to potable water, storage, and distribution including water meters.
  - Wastewater treatments systems including collection, transmission to treatment plant, treatment, and release of treated products.
  - City streets and storm drains.
  - All City buildings including Water Plant, Wastewater Plant Complex, Commons, Reservoirs, Little Log Church, Library, and other sites for City equipment and storage .
- Provide staging area for debris collected from public property for disposal by authorized agencies (revise pending publication of Lincoln County Debris Management Plan).
- Render assistance as needed to Yachats Rural Fire Protection District (YRFPD) for any problems which occur on City property or facilities.
- Coordinate with other emergency management agencies including but not limited to Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management (LCSOEM), Oregon Office of Emergency Management, FEMA, and any other related agencies which may include nearby communities such as City of Waldport or Seal Rock. Most likely that other State and Federal Agencies contact will occur through LCSOEM.

## **Responses To Distant Tsunami Notifications**

**Tsunami Information Statement:** Take no action other than to remain alert for any other information.

**Tsunami Watch:** Take no action other than to remain alert for any other information.

**Tsunami Advisory:** Follow the following steps:

1. If notified by NOAA alert standby for call from LSCOEM. Otherwise receive call from LSCOEM. The call is an invitation to participate with the LSCOEM in a Joint Command Center response to the Distant Tsunami Event.
2. LSCOEM call is made to City Recorder (Nancy Bachelder) and Public Works Supervisor (Larry Blanchard).
3. Both City Recorder and Public Works Supervisor must acknowledge the call and within 30 minutes call 888-450-5996 using passcode 457918. Provide city name, position, and name as part of LSCOEM role call procedure.
4. Keep record of any pertinent information related to the pending event.
5. Both contacts are to send a summary email to Mayor and President of the City Council followed by a phone call to each.
6. Both contacts are to continue calling into LSCOEM center at requested call back intervals until the event ends and the LSCOEM closes the Emergency Command Center (EOC).
7. Both contacts are to send follow up email to Mayor, President of the City Council, and LSCOEM.

**Tsunami Warning:** Follow the following steps:

1. If notified by NOAA alert standby for call from Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management (LSCOEM). Otherwise receive call from LSCOEM. The call is an invitation to participate with the LSCOEM in a Joint Command Center response to the Distant Tsunami Event.
2. LSCOEM call is made to City Recorder (Nancy Bachelder) and Public Works Supervisor (Larry Blanchard).
3. Both City Recorder and Public Works Supervisor must acknowledge the call and within 30 minutes call 888-450-5996 using passcode 457918. Provide city name, position, and name as part of LSCOEM role call procedure.
4. Keep record of any pertinent information related to the pending event.
5. Based on severity of information received the Public Works Supervisor should request a quick review of any pending or current issues with water and wastewater plants which could be impacted. Potential to request key staff to be on standby until the event is concluded.
6. Both contacts to send a summary email to Mayor and President of the City Council followed by a phone call to each.
7. Both contacts are to continue calling into LSCOEM center at requested call back intervals until the event ends and Permission to Re-enter the Distant Tsunami Zone is granted.
8. Public Works Supervisor again should again request a quick status report from water and wastewater treatment plants and drive the impact streets

(Ocean View Drive, Yachats Ocean Road, and Combs Circle) to see if any damage or debris is present.

9. Both contacts are to send follow up email to Mayor, President of the City Council, and LCSOEM with report of any damage or follow up approaches to any damage to City property needed.

## **Suggested Approaches for Damage to City Property**

**Minimal Impact:** Below are the guidelines for selecting a Minimal Damage Repair Plan.

- Cleanup or repair can be completed in less than a day  
OR
- Cleanup or repair cost is less than \$1,000 including material and staff time  
OR
- Impact of event effects less than 5 properties or City utility customers

**Suggested Damage Repair Plan:** Use the following guidelines to develop a plan.

- Notify the Mayor and President of the City Council by phone and follow-up email of the impact and what is planned to cleanup or repair the damage.
- Keep records of all materials, services, and staff time needed to complete the work.
- Prepare and after action summary and email it to the Mayor and President of the City Council and phone both to let them know the work is completed. .
- Provide a copy of the after action summary to LCSOEM.

**Moderate Impact:** Below are the guidelines for selecting a Moderate Damage Repair Plan.

- Cleanup or repair can be completed in less than five days  
OR
- Cleanup or repair cost is less than \$10,000 including material and staff time  
OR
- Impact of event effects between 5 to 20 properties or City utility customers

**Suggested Damage Repair Plan:** Use the following guidelines to develop a plan.

- Notify the Mayor and President of the City Council by phone and follow-up email of the impact and what is planned to cleanup or repair the damage.
- Notify LCSOEM and provide them a copy of the email
- Keep records of all materials, services, and staff time needed to complete the work.
- Prepare and after action summary including costs and staff time used and email it to the Mayor and President of the City Council and phone both to let them know the work is completed.
- Provide a copy of the after action summary to LCSOEM.

**Major Impact:** Below are the guidelines for selecting a Major Damage Repair Plan.

- Cleanup or repair can NOT be completed in less than five days  
OR
- Cleanup or repair cost is OVER \$10,000 including material and staff time  
OR
- Impact of event effects OVER 20 properties or City utility customers

**Suggested After Action Plan:** Use the following guidelines to develop a plan.

- Notify the Mayor and President of the City Council by phone and follow-up email of the need to open an Emergency Operation Command (EOC) center to cleanup and repair damage.
- Notify LCSOEM and YRFPD that City of Yachats is opening an EOC.
- Recruit staffing for the EOC using the City Recorder, City office staff, needed Public Works staff, City Council members, and members of the Emergency Planning Committee.
- Depending on the size and scope of the event consider a request to LCSOEM for additional help.
- If any possibility exists for safety of citizens during the cleanup or repair request assistance from YRFPD.
- Follow EOC guidelines for the operation of the EOC.
- When the cleanup or repairs are completed deactivate the EOC.