

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-703**

**January 17, 2007**

**Operations and Services**

**TSUNAMI WARNING SERVICES**

**POST-TSUNAMI SURVEYS**

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**OPR:** W/PR1 (R. J. LaDouce)

**Certified by:** W/OS (D. McCarthy)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This supersedes NWS Instruction 10-703, dated May 19, 2003.

1. Changed the title of the Tsunami Program Manager (TPM) to the Tsunami Program Operations Leader (TPOL) to better clarify NWS roles and responsibilities.

/signed/ 1/3/07  
Dennis McCarthy Date  
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**1. United States Surveys.** National Weather Service Instruction 10-1606 *Service Assessment* is the directive which establishes NWS policy for conducting post-event evaluations, including tsunami. In addition to the instructions provided in that directive, the Tsunami Program Operations Leader (TPOL) will be notified when a survey team is being dispatched. Special attention should be given to obtaining information on the timing and magnitude of individual waves in the tsunami and on the limits of inundation in accordance with post-tsunami survey procedures established by International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) in cooperation with domestic and international scientific and governmental bodies.

**2. International Surveys.** International disaster surveys involving U.S. government personnel are coordinated by the Department of State (DOS). Only after a formal request has been submitted to the DOS by the affected foreign country should a survey team be organized to investigate tsunami damage and inundation in that country. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) may also request surveys from the ITIC.

**3. Special Circumstances.** Under special circumstances, such as in Pacific-wide tsunamis, a survey team may be dispatched before formal requests for assistance from specific countries have been coordinated with the TPOL, Weather Service Headquarters (WSH), and/or DOS. NWS personnel may survey these affected areas under the auspices of ITIC but only when so designated by WSH or DOS. The ITIC Director and Associate Director may proceed directly to the disaster area to conduct surveys irrespective of approvals from WSH or DOS. However, travel paid for with NWS funds must be approved by Pacific Regional Headquarters.

**4. Survey Procedures.** ITIC is, in part, responsible for developing the appropriate survey procedures in order to obtain accurate and meaningful tsunami run-up and earthquake data. Standardized survey instructions and procedures are made available to all participating nations by ITIC to enable those countries to conduct their own surveys.