

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE INSTRUCTION 10-702

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Operations and Services

Tsunami Warning Services, NWSPD 10-7

INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supersedes NWS Instruction 10-702, *Tsunami Warning Services*, dated January 1, 2014. Changes made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015. This instruction includes the following changes:

1. Corrected number of states and territories that participate in the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (from 29 to 28).
2. Added reference of coordination with the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program on post-tsunami surveys in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

Signed

2/6/2017

Andrew D. Stern

Date

Director

Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

International Tsunami Information Center

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1 General

The International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) is operated by the National Weather Service (NWS) Pacific Region Headquarters to serve as a national and international tsunami information resource assisting U.S. States / Territories / Commonwealths, US Compact of Free Association countries, and countries throughout the Pacific and around the world to mitigate the effects of tsunamis. ITIC works in close partnership with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC), which serves as the Tsunami Service Provider for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) and for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Early Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE EWS) countries.

ITIC provides outreach, training, technical assistance and warning coordination services to ensure that international alerts are received in a timely manner, are understood and interpreted correctly, are used to properly execute emergency responses that will save lives and property, and reduce impacts on economies. To this end, ITIC works in close partnership with the NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, operated by the NWS Southern Region. The NWS International Affairs Office (IAO) should keep ITIC informed of relevant NWS and NOAA international policies and programs, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements related to tsunamis.

ITIC was established upon request of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC), and has been hosted, since its inception in 1965, by the NWS Pacific Region. ITIC's mission is to improve tsunami preparedness for all Pacific Ocean nations participating in the IOC-coordinated Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, as well as other nations of the global tsunami warning system coordinated by the IOC. The mandate and functions of ITIC for the Pacific are given in IOC Resolution X-23 (November, 1977), and amended by IOC/Executive Council-XXI (March, 1988). After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, ITIC was requested to assist the Indian, Caribbean, and Mediterranean regions by IOC Resolutions XXIII-12, 13, 14 (June, 2005).

ITIC serves a critical role as a U.S. international tsunami warning coordination center, working directly with countries and stakeholders. ITIC, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, and the U.S. Tsunami National Contact will work closely with IAO and the IOC Permanent Representative to formulate US engagement in the IOC Tsunami Program. Domestically, ITIC works with the US National Tsunami Warning Center (US NTWC), PTWC, and NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologists to provide States with warning coordination and tsunami preparedness program support. Effective warning coordination requires continuous user

interaction, including on-site and in-person visits and/or training that will build tsunami resilient communities domestically and internationally.

2 Domestic

ITIC serves as an information resource and works directly with the 28 States, Territories, and Commonwealths that are part of the U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP), to enable all levels of government to prepare for the threat to save lives and reduce damage to property and the economy from a destructive tsunami. ITIC serves as a coordinating element for US tsunami warning users. ITIC also receives and answers questions and fulfills information and awareness materials requests from the public in the US and internationally.

To fulfill its domestic mission, ITIC works closely with the NWS, its Warning Coordination Meteorologists and TsunamiReady® Program, the NTHMP and its partners, the Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program and US Federal agencies, such as the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and all NOAA line offices.

Duties: The principal domestic duties of ITIC are summarized as:

- Support the NTHMP, States, Territories, Commonwealths, and partners, consistent with the US Tsunami Warning and Education Act [Public Law 109-479 (2007); 33 U.S.C. 3201 et seq., Title VIII].
- Develop and provide domestic tsunami training. ITIC is the USDHS / FEMA - National Disaster Preparedness Training Center's (NDPTC) tsunami focal point for the development and delivery of certified training. The NDPTC, funded through the FEMA Preparedness Directorate under a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Hawaii, is the only member of the USDHS National Disaster Consortium that focuses on natural hazards disaster preparedness training.
- Support the building and sustainment of TsunamiReady communities in the US NWS Pacific Region Area of Responsibility, including Hawaii, the Territories of American Samoa and Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.
- Develop and sustain a domestic culture of tsunami preparedness and response.

3 International

Under the US Tsunami Warning and Education Act, 33 U.S.C. 3206(a), the NWS shall provide technical assistance to the IOC, WMO, and other international entities as part of international efforts to develop a fully functional global tsunami forecast and warning system comprised of regional tsunami warning networks, and based on the experience of the PTWS. Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 3206(b), ITIC provides support to PTWS countries and other nations of the global tsunami warning system.

To fulfill its international mission, ITIC works closely with the UNESCO/IOC and other UN agencies such as the UN Development Program, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, international and intergovernmental regional specialized scientific and disaster risk reduction agencies, US and international tsunami warning centers, tsunami service providers, regional International Tsunami Information Centers, and the US State Department as well as federal agencies such as the USGS, NSF, and all NOAA line offices. All international cooperation is coordinated with IAO and the US Tsunami National Contact.

Duties: The principal international duties of ITIC are summarized as:

- Monitor the international tsunami warning activities in the Pacific and other nations of the global tsunami warning system, and make recommendations for improvements to the PTWS and other IOC-coordinated warning and mitigation systems, and/or to the NOAA/NWS Tsunami Program.
- Provide Pacific countries information about the PTWS, the affairs of ITIC, and how to join in the activities of the IOC (ICG/PTWS).
- Assist member states of ICG/PTWS and other nations of the global tsunami warning system in the establishment of regional and national warning systems and in the improvement of preparedness, including countries participating in the US Compact for Free Association in the North Pacific.
- Gather and promulgate knowledge on tsunamis and foster research and its application.
- Cooperate with the World Data System in collecting tsunami data information.
- Assist national authorities in conducting investigations of all aspects of major tsunamis and develop standard survey procedures for such investigations.
- Provide technical assistance to various UNESCO/IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (e.g., the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Mediterranean).

4 Post-Tsunami Surveys

Under NWSI 10-703, *Post Tsunami and Warning Effectiveness Surveys*, ITIC will facilitate and coordinate the conduct of domestic and international post-tsunami surveys. It coordinates domestically with NWS units including the IAO, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, NTHMP Partners and Federal Agencies, and internationally with the UNESCO IOC, the US State Department, and the affected country.

To improve the quality and accessibility of tsunami historical data for hazard risk analysis and warning guidance, ITIC works with the ICSU World Data System, Marine Geology and Geophysics, co-located at NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center to collect, verify, and archive tsunami event data.

5 Reporting Responsibilities

The Director, ITIC, will report directly to the appropriate IOC authorities on matters not affecting NWS operations or US policy and is responsible for funds allocated to ITIC by the IOC. For administrative purposes, the Director, ITIC, reports to the Director, Pacific Region, who is also responsible for logistical support. Financial resources are provided by the NOAA/NWS Pacific Region. International activities may be additionally augmented by other funding sources within NOAA, other federal government agencies, the World Meteorological Organization Voluntary Cooperation Program funds, or other international organizations.

6 Office and Staffing

The ITIC office is located in the NWS Pacific Region. NOAA NWS will provide the ITIC Director and office staff. The position of Associate Director, ITIC (IOC ITSU-IV, Rec 1, 1974), will be funded by a foreign member state of the ICG/PTWS and/or the IOC. The Associate Director will report directly to the Director, ITIC. Additional foreign staff may be detailed by countries to work at ITIC in coordination with the IOC and the IAO.