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After the Waves: What's in YOUR Tsunami Emergency Operations Plan?

An accepted and best practice for Emergency Managers (EMs) is to develop Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) for natural hazard threats to their jurisdictions. The goal of this poster is to display the forces that cause damage, injury, and death in tsunamis which are the power of the wave front, run-up to inundation, and onshore/offshore currents. This poster will also show an extensive list of the short- and long-term impacts of these forces. By addressing the wide-ranging impacts of tsunamis, an EOP can be developed as an aid to mitigate these impacts in the response and recovery phases of a tsunami disaster.

Examples of the impacts to be depicted are: Accountability, Communications, Infrastructure, Fires, HAZMAT, Medical, and Food/Shelter. These post-wave challenges will require an application of the Incident Command System.

This list of impacts was developed by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Juneau, Alaska by observing both historical and recently documented events. Emergency Managers and personnel from the National and Pacific Tsunami Warning Centers also contributed. The discussion section for the poster may identify additional impacts that should be addressed in an effective and robust tsunami EOP for any threatened coastal community.