THE CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT PLAN

VOLUME: 3C
NATIONAL TSUNAMI PLAN
## RECORD OF REVIEWS AND AMENDMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Change</th>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Page(s) Affected</th>
<th>Changes Made By Name &amp; Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sequence of national warning phases, assignment of agencies to actions to be taken, inclusion of abbreviated holding statement for public.</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td>3 – 6; and 11 – 19.</td>
<td>Omar Afflick</td>
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<td>McCleary Frederick</td>
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<td>General Review and formatting</td>
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<td>All</td>
<td>McCleary Frederick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# National Tsunami Plan

## Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION** .............................................................................................................. 1

**Tsunami Threat to the Cayman Islands** ................................................................. 1

**PURPOSE/POLICY** ........................................................................................................ 1

**ADMINISTRATION** ....................................................................................................... 2

**AUTHORITY** .................................................................................................................. 2

**PLAN MAINTENANCE** ................................................................................................. 2

**LEGAL REFERENCES** .................................................................................................... 2

**RESPONSIBILITY** ......................................................................................................... 3

**CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS** ....................................................................................... 3

  - *Principles of operations* .......................................................................................... 3
  - *Warning Phases* ........................................................................................................ 3
    - Tsunami Alert ......................................................................................................... 3
    - Tsunami Watch ...................................................................................................... 4
    - Tsunami Warning .................................................................................................. 4
    - All Clear ................................................................................................................ 4
  - *Alerting, Notification* ............................................................................................. 4

**WHAT TO DO?** ............................................................................................................. 6

  - Sensing a Tsunami .................................................................................................. 6
  - Tsunami Safety Rules ............................................................................................. 8
  - Tsunami Preparedness During a Tsunami ................................................................... 9

**ACTIONS DURING VARIOUS PHASES** ...................................................................... 10

  - Pre-Impact: .............................................................................................................. 10
  - Impact: .................................................................................................................... 10
  - Immediate Post-Impact: .......................................................................................... 11

**RECOVERY** .................................................................................................................. 12

**NEOC Activation, Deactivation** ................................................................................ 12

  - Local Tsunami ........................................................................................................ 12
  - Distant Tsunami ....................................................................................................... 12

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS** ......................................................................... 12

**APPENDIX** .................................................................................................................. 13

**APPENDIX A: MESSAGE TEMPLATES** ..................................................................... 13

**APPENDIX B: EVACUATION ORDER** ......................................................................... 18
Introduction

Tsunami Threat to the Cayman Islands

Tsunamis (pronounced soo-NAH-mee) are ocean waves caused by large earthquakes and landslides that occur near or under the ocean. Tsunami at one time was incorrectly referred to as a tidal wave. Scientists do not use the term "tidal wave" because these waves are not caused by tides. There is no tsunami season. Tsunamis are possible 24 hours a day year round.

Tsunami waves are unlike typical ocean waves generated by wind and storms. When tsunamis approach shore, they behave like a very fast moving tide that extends far inland. As with many natural phenomena, tsunamis can range in size from micro-tsunamis detectable only by sensitive instruments on the ocean floor to mega-tsunamis that can affect the coastlines of entire oceans, as with the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

Extensive damage from coastal inundation possible along coastal areas, impacts associated with tsunamis will vary depending on local conditions. Potentially, the Cayman Islands may be affected by tsunamis generated in other parts of the Caribbean Sea and striking the coastlines of the islands. The bathymetry of the islands, however, does not exhibit a continental shelf that shallows gradually towards the coastline producing the amplification of tsunami waves, as it happens on the continents. The Cayman Islands coastline rises sharply from the ocean bottom and this bathymetry may not give rise to the rapid amplification of tsunami waves.

Purpose/Policy

The Tsunami Preparedness Plan for the Cayman Islands is written and issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) to ensure that:

- All practical precautions are taken in advance to minimise, prevent and protect against the loss of life, risk of injury to people during a Tsunami through public education.

- Operational response to an event is based on a continuous flow of accurate information from a variety of sources, which will allow the NEOC to evaluate overall conditions and prioritise the deployment of personnel, equipment and relief resources.

- Damage assessment and recovery measures are incorporated, which provides for the timely and efficient transition from immediate response to post-tsunami recovery operations.

Response operations may continue on different levels over an extended period of time due to changing conditions that continue to threaten life and property. Transition into
recovery is an important element of disaster response and will commence while emergency response is still occurring.

**Administration**

This plan deals only with preparedness for and response to tsunami and the initiation of recovery coordination arrangements following the impact of a tsunami. The plan accounts for all tsunami magnitudes and generation mechanisms.

**Authority**

The Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Law, 2016 established the Department of Hazard Management Cayman Islands, whose functions are to facilitate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programmes.

The Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Law Section;
4. (1) The functions of the Department are to facilitate and co-ordinate the development and implementation of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programmes and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such functions shall include -
   (a) developing and implementing policies and programmes to achieve and maintain an appropriate state of national preparedness for managing all emergency situations which may affect the Islands;

6(4) The Director shall prepare a National Hazard Management Plan comprising a statement of the contingency arrangements under the Director’s coordination, for responding to the threat, event or aftermath of a disaster in the Islands whether or not the threat, event or aftermath is such as to prompt the issuance of an alert, a declaration of disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or a notice of evacuation, and shall cause the Management Plan to be reviewed annually.

**PLAN MAINTENANCE**

This Plan is reviewed annually and updated as required in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Main Plan.

**Legal References**

a. Disaster Preparedness And Hazard Management Law, 2016
e. The Penal Code (2005 Revision).
Responsibility

General responsibilities are defined under “Roles and Responsibilities” of the National Hazard Management Plan and National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The specific implementing procedures are included in each operational function.

HIMCI has the responsibility of implement/initiating the provisions of this plan in the event of a tsunami.

Additional responsibilities are included in this plan under the provisions for Action During Various Phases section.

Concept of Operations

The operational objectives of this plan are:
- Protection of life (highest priority)
- Minimize interruption to essential services
- Initiation of recovery

Principles of operations

The following principles are to apply during tsunami operations:

a. The HMCI is the agency for dealing with tsunami and members of the emergency response operations are coordinated by HMCI through the NEOC.

b. The nature of the threat is such that many other agencies and organizations (including non-government and private sector organizations) must play a part as must the people at risk.

c. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) will monitor tsunami operations and keep members of the National Hazard Management Committee informed through WebEOC.

Warning Phases

The following are local tsunami warning phases based on bulletins issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC). Currently the PTWC is the interim warning centre to countries in the Caribbean Sea, and issues three types of messages Tsunami Watch, Tsunami Information and Tsunami Watch Cancellation.

Tsunami Alert – A Tsunami alert is issued by HMCI based on a Tsunami Information Statement from the PTWC. Tsunami Information Statement inform about the occurrence of a large earthquake with little or no tsunami generating potential, either because the earthquake has insufficient size, is located too far inland to disturb the sea, is too deep within the earth to significantly displace the seafloor, or some combination of the above.

HMCI will continue to monitor the event, issuing updates at least hourly. If important additional information is received such as a tsunami signal is detected on sea level gauges. Alert status may be upgraded to a watch or warning if appropriate.
**Tsunami Watch** – A Tsunami Watch is the second highest level of tsunami alert. A Watch is issued by HMCI on notification that a Tsunami Watch is issued by PTWC following a large earthquake to inform that there is the potential for a destructive tsunami to impact the region declared under a watch, or to inform regarding a confirmed tsunami with the potential to cause damage to the region declared under a watch.

It is issued as a means of providing an advance notification to areas that could be impacted by destructive tsunami waves. Watches are updated at least hourly to continue them, expand their coverage, upgrade them to a Warning, or end the alert.

**Tsunami Warning** – A Tsunami Warning is the highest level of tsunami alert. Warnings are issued by HMCI on notification that a Tsunami Watch is issued by PTWC following a large earthquake to inform that there is the potential for a destructive tsunami to impact the region declared under a watch, or to inform regarding a confirmed tsunami with the potential to cause damage to the region declared under a watch.

Warnings advise that appropriate actions be taken in response to the tsunami threat. Such actions could include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas and the movement of boats and ships out of harbours to deep water. Warnings are updated at least hourly or as conditions warrant, to continue, expand, restrict, or end the warning.

**All Clear** – An All Clear is issued by HMCI based on a Tsunami Watch Cancellation issued by PTWC that indicates the end of the damaging tsunami threat.

**Alerting, Notification**

Upon receipt of a "Tsunami Watch" from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center or other (West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Caribbean Tsunami Warning Center) via EMWIN communications, or Notification by Cayman Islands Emergency Communications Center (CIEC911), HMCI will issue an alert with a "holding statement" indicating that a Tsunami warning has been issued for the islands. This alert and "holding statement" will be issued

a. to all media houses;

b. Government Information Service (GIS)

c. appropriate response agencies and agents of the national response mechanism and

d. The National Hazard Management Executive and Council.

e. MLAs

Cayman Islands Emergency Communications Center (CIEC911) will issue an All-Points Bulletin to the Emergency Response Call Group re: the warning received via EMWIN.

HMCI will immediately liaise with any and all possible contacts (Scientific Centers) to determine the threat of the impending tsunami impact. (Determining the threat includes expected wave heights, expected time of impact and source of tsunami).
HMCI will provide GIS with all relevant information on the threat for further issuance of alerts to
  a. to all media houses;
  b. appropriate response agencies and agents of the national response mechanism and
  c. The National Hazard Management Executive and Council.
  d. MLAs
All subsequent alerts must include nature of threat and response actions expected by the public and must be conveyed to the public as the only 'official' information they should be acting on. The alerts and notifications will continue until the threat has dissipated or until normality returns after impact.

If it has been determined that there is no threat to the Cayman Islands HMCI will provide GIS with all relevant information to further notify the country through the established national response mechanism communication means (being GIS).

Additional notification shall be as prescribed in the NEOC SOP.
WHAT TO DO?

Information provided from International Tsunami Information Centre

**Sensing a Tsunami**

- Tsunamis can be detected using our human senses.
- Recognize a tsunami’s natural warning signs.

**FEEL**

Strong local earthquakes may cause tsunamis.

**FEEL** the ground shaking severely?
SEE

- As a tsunami approaches shorelines, water may recede from the coast, exposing the ocean floor, reefs, and fishes.
- SEE an unusual disappearance of water?

HEAR
Abnormal ocean activity, a wall of water, and approaching tsunami create a loud “roaring” sound similar to that of a train or jet aircraft.
HEAR the roar?

RUN
Don’t wait for official evacuation orders.
Immediately leave low-lying coastal areas.
Move inland to higher ground.
RUN if you see a tsunami coming!
Tsunami Safety Rules

1. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. When you know that an earthquake has occurred, stand by for a tsunami emergency message.

2. An earthquake in your area is one of nature's tsunami warning signals. Do not stay in low-lying coastal areas after a strong earthquake has been felt.

3. Tsunamis are sometimes preceded by a noticeable fall in sea level as the ocean retreats seaward exposing the seafloor. A roar like an oncoming train may sometimes be heard as the tsunami wave rushes toward the shore. These are also nature's tsunami warning signals.

4. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves carrying a massive volume of water that can flood and inundate land for hours. The first wave may not be the largest. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by a recognized authority.

5. A small tsunami at one point on the shore can be extremely large a few kilometers away. Don't let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.

6. All warnings to the public must be taken very seriously, even if some are for non-destructive events.

7. All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.

8. Never go down to the shore to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave, you are too close to outrun it. Most tsunamis are like flash floods full of debris. Tsunami waves typically do not curl and break, so do not try to surf a tsunami.

9. Sooner or later, tsunamis visit every coastline in the Pacific and all oceans. If you live in a coastal area, be prepared and know nature's tsunami warning signals.

10. During a tsunami emergency, your local civil defense, police, and other emergency organizations will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation.
**Tsunami Preparedness**

1. Be aware of tsunami facts. This knowledge could save your life!

2. Share this knowledge with family and friends. It could save their lives!

3. Determine if you live, work, play, or transit a coastal low lying area or tsunami evacuation zone.

4. Follow the advice of local emergency and law enforcement authorities. Do not return until authorities say it is safe.

5. Stay away from bodies of water. If you are at the beach or near the ocean, and you feel the earth shake, move immediately inland to higher ground. Do not wait for a tsunami warning to be issued. Stay away from rivers and streams that lead to the ocean due to strong tsunami wave action and currents.

6. Take shelter. If you live in a tsunami evacuation zone and hear that there is a tsunami warning, your family should evacuate your house. Walk in an orderly, calm manner to the evacuation site or to any safe place outside your evacuation zone. If you are in school and you hear there is a tsunami warning, you should follow the advice of teachers and other school officials. If you are unable to quickly move inland, high, multi-story, reinforced concrete buildings may provide a safe refuge on the third floor and above.

**During A Tsunami**

When you feel a strong coastal earthquake, be aware that a tsunami may have been generated that will attack in minutes. Evacuate immediately inland to higher ground. Do not wait for official evacuation orders.

When there a distant tsunami that is generated far away stay alert to your national tsunami warning center and local officials. Tsunami Warning Centers will issue a Tsunami Warning when scientists are certain that a real tsunami threat exists. Be ready to evacuate by preparing you Disaster Supplies Kit, locating family members, reviewing evacuation routes, and if time permits, securing unanchored objects around your home or business. Emergency Management or Civil Defense officials will issue evacuation orders advising the public when to evacuate tsunami hazard zones. Follow their instructions. Tsunami Warning Centers will cancel a Tsunami Warning when destructive waves stop arriving to the coast, but that does not mean it is safe for the public to re-enter since buildings may be unsafe and downed live power lines are dangerous. Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe. A tsunami is a series of waves that may continue for hours. Do not assume that after one wave the danger is over. The next wave may be larger than the first one.
Actions During Various Phases

Key variables which will determine the extent of any tsunami response operation are tsunami magnitude; time of day; season; warning time and areas likely to be affected. The response phase consists of the following activity periods:

Pre-Impact:

This phase begins when a Tsunami Watch or Warning is issued. Activities conducted during this period are precautionary and are focused upon protection of life. When regional or distant tsunami occurs, tsunami impact will be preceded by a period of several hours to almost a day depending upon the distance from the Cayman Islands that a tsunami has been generated.

The occurrence of local tsunami may not be preceded by a period of notification and would arrive at the initial point of impact with little to no warning. Hence, in the areas close to the initial point of impact little to no time would be available to conduct pre-impact activities. Some warning time may be available for communities north and south of the initial point of impact depending upon how quickly the event is recognized as a tsunami.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Supporting Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of information to determine the threat of the impending tsunami impact</td>
<td>HMCI</td>
<td>CINWS, Lands and Survey, PTWC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulation and dissemination of Tsunami Watches, Warnings and Bulletins</td>
<td>NEOC/JCS</td>
<td>HMCI/JCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification to Emergency Services</td>
<td>DPSC</td>
<td>NEOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warning and evacuation of threatened communities and waterways to safe areas</td>
<td>NEOC/RCIPS</td>
<td>CIFS/ any other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of the media including the establishment of a media information centre</td>
<td>NEOC/JCS</td>
<td>GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination of vessels to deep water if sufficient warning time is available</td>
<td>Port Authority</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Impact:

This phase is likely to last several hours and be characterized by the impact of a series of separate waves. Operations during this phase maybe limited due safety considerations of emergency services.
### Monitoring and survey of likely impact areas
- **Lead Agency:** NEOC
- **Supporting Agency:** RCIPS

### Continued warning and evacuation of threatened communities and waterways to safe areas (During period of successive waves)
- **Lead Agency:** NEOC/JCS

### Implement the restriction of access to likely impact areas and provision of security of evacuated areas
- **Lead Agency:** NEOC
- **Supporting Agency:** RCIPS/PWD/NRA

### Management of the media
- **Lead Agency:** NEOC/JCS
- **Supporting Agency:** GIS

### Immediate Post-Impact:
This phase will commence upon the issue of a “Tsunami Warning Cancellation” indicating that the destructive potential of the tsunami has ceased.

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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Supporting Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Formulation and dissemination of Tsunami Warning Cancellation</td>
<td>NEOC/JCS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of areas likely to have been impacted</td>
<td>NEOC</td>
<td>RCIPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search and rescue of people trapped and injured as a result of the damage caused by the Tsunami</td>
<td>NEOC/SAR S-C</td>
<td>CIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search and rescue of people that may have been carried out to sea</td>
<td>NEOC/SAR S-C</td>
<td>RCIPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Management</td>
<td>RCIPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of potential public health risks</td>
<td>NEOC/MR S-C</td>
<td>HSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activation of Emergency Shelters for displaced people</td>
<td>NEOC/SO S-C</td>
<td>Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of a tracing system to provide basic details on the location and safety of victims</td>
<td>NEOC</td>
<td>RCIPS/Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Relief Aid</td>
<td>NEOC/RM S-C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damage assessment</td>
<td>NEOC/DEIA S-C</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
End of Response Operations
Response operations will conclude once all of the following conditions have been met:
  a. Physical tsunami impact has ceased
  b. The need for warning and evacuation no longer exists
  c. There is no further prospect of rescuing people trapped by the tsunami waves or their destructive impacts
d. Response to fire and hazmat incidents have concluded (not including subsequent cleanup of contaminated sites)

Recovery
Recovery includes the process of returning affected communities to their proper level of functioning after a tsunami. Preparation for recovery will begin during the pre-impact period. Recovery operations will begin concurrently with impact period response operations. This plan describes the initiation of recovery, but not the arrangements for recovery itself. Arrangements for the initiation of Recovery are contained in Part 6 of this Plan

NEOC Activation, Deactivation
The NEOC will be activated National Emergency Operations Centre Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), SOP 1 Activation and Deactivation of NEOC and these procedures.

Local Tsunami
If an event occurs outside normal work hours, the condition of the NEOC will be assessed as to its suitability. If there is substantial damage the alternate NEOC will be used. If an event occurs during work hours (and the office is occupied) the NEOC will be activated immediately.

Distant Tsunami
The HMCI office will be activated as an EOC and used for the monitoring and planning and notification. During this phase consideration will be given to activate the NEOC if it is determined that the event poses a threat to the Cayman Islands.

Relationship to Other Plans
This plan is to be read in conjunction with the National Disaster Management Plan. And the NEOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
Appendix

Appendix A: Message Templates

Holding Statement

Joint Communications Service

Contact information: Simon Boxall 526 2027

TSUNAMI ALERT FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bulletin # [insert #] October 23, 2015 / 8:25 am

PRELIMINARY EARTHQUAKE PARAMETERS
MAGNITUDE - 7.6
TIME - 0300 UTC OCT 23 2015
LOCATION - 18.3 NORTH 65.3 WEST
25 MILES/40 KM SE OF PAJARDO PUERTO RICO
55 MILES/89 KM SE OF SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO
DEPTH - 56 MILES/90 KM

An earthquake has occurred that may have the potential for generated a tsunami. Residents are asked to monitor the media for up-to-date information for further details about this event.

- IT IS NOT KNOWN THAT A TSUNAMI WAS GENERATED. THIS ALERT IS BASED ONLY ON EARTHQUAKE EVALUATION.

ADDITIONAL BULLETINS WILL BE ISSUED BY HMCI AS MORE INFORMATION FOR THIS EVENT BECOMES AVAILABLE FROM THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER.

Information can also be found on:
- www.caymanprepared.gov.ky
- Facebook: Cayman Islands Government, Cayman Hazard
- Twitter: @CAYMANGOV @CINEOC
- local media

This alert is issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service (CINWS).

(JCS)
TSUNAMI WATCH FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bulletin # [insert #] October 23, 2015 / 8:25 am

The earthquake that occurred [LOCATION] has the potential for a destructive tsunami. A Tsunami Watch has been issued by PTWC to inform that there is the potential for a destructive tsunami to impact the region declared under a watch.

It is not yet confirmed if the Cayman Islands will be affected.

Residents are asked to monitor the media for up to date information about this event.

[INSERT TSUNAMI INFORMATION HERE
CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS DUE TO RAPID CURRENTS. AS LOCAL CONDITIONS CAN CAUSE A WIDE VARIATION IN TSUNAMI WAVE ACTION THE ALL CLEAR DETERMINATION MUST BE MADE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

DUE TO ONLY LIMITED SEA LEVEL DATA FROM THE REGION IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THIS CENTER TO RAPIDLY NOR ACCURATELY EVALUATE THE STRENGTH OF A TSUNAMI IF ONE HAS BEEN GENERATED.]

ADDITIONAL BULLETINS WILL BE ISSUED BY HMCi AS MORE INFORMATION FOR THIS EVENT BECOMES AVAILABLE FROM THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER.

Information can also be found on:
• www.caymanprepared.gov.ky
• Facebook: Cayman Islands Government, Cayman Hazard
• Twitter: @caymangov @CINEOC

This alert is issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCi) and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service (CINWS). (JCS)
TSUNAMI WARNING

Joint Communications Service

Contact information: Simon Boxall 526 2027

TSUNAMI WARNING FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bulletin # [insert #] October 23, 2015 / 8:25 am

The earthquake that occurred [LOCATION] has generated Tsunami. A Tsunami Watch has been issued by PTWC to inform that a Tsunami has been detected and is forecasted to impact the region.

The Cayman Islands has been included in the Tsunami PTWC warning Area.

AS A PRECAUTION, ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD EVACUATE THE COASTAL AREAS AND MOVE INLAND AWAY FROM THE SOUTH COAST, OR EVACUATE VERTICALLY (TO HIGHER FLOORS) WHERE POSSIBLE.

[INSERT TSUNAMI INFORMATION HERE]
ADDITIONAL BULLETINS WILL BE ISSUED BY HMCI AS MORE INFORMATION FOR THIS EVENT BECOMES AVAILABLE FROM THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER.

Information can also be found on:
- www.caymanprepared.gov.ky
- Facebook: Cayman Islands Government, Cayman Hazard
- Twitter: @caymangov @CINEOC

This alert is issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service (CINWS).

(JCS)
ALL CLEAR

Joint Communications Service

Contact information: Simon Boxall 526 2027

TSUNAMI ALL CLEAR FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2015 / 8:25 am

Issued at [insert time] hours on [insert date]

A tsunami all clear is in effect for the Cayman Islands

A tsunami all clear has been issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) at [insert time] for coastal areas of the Cayman Islands.

The advisory confirms that the tsunami warning has been discontinued which indicates the end of the Tsunami threat for the Cayman Islands.

Persons should exercise caution... particularly...

Numbers, emails, social media to call to report damage etc.

For the latest information on the tsunami Visit:

- www.caymanprepared.gov.ky
- Facebook: Cayman Islands Government, Cayman Hazard
- Twitter: @caymangov @CINEOC
- local media

This alert is issued by Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service (CINWS).
Appendix B: Evacuation Order

Evacuation Order
[Draft]

Whereas a State of Emergency has been declared, as the result of a serious threat to the lives and property of residents of the Cayman Islands from a Tsunami.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 of The Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Law, 2016, I __________________, hereby order the evacuation of __________________.

All persons residing in these areas must evacuate immediately inland or to other safe areas and to remain there until advised that it is safe to return to your home.

Signed: ________________________________

Date: ________________________________