

National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE-EWS session website.

NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by
TNC of [Virgin Islands]
[Director, Jasen Penn, Disaster Management]

BASIC INFORMATION

1. **Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami hazard exists)**
Determine if an advisory has been issued if yes notify agencies, Governor and activate some systems. If a watch or warning has been issued contact Governor activate all systems.

 2. **Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami hazard exists)**
For each situation, please provide the following:
What organization identifies and characterizes tsunamigenic events?
 - **The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre , The Puerto Rico Seismic Network**
What is the threshold or criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency?
 - **This is done by the Puerto Rico Seismic Network /PTWC**
What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?
 - **The Department of Disaster Management**
How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country? This is done via social mediums, AM and FM Broadcast radio, marine radio, Emergency Broadcast, Sirens with Voice activation, whats app groups and channel, Disaster Management website, DDM app
Who is it disseminated to? Information is disseminated to key operating agencies (Fire, Police, Health, District Offices etc.), The general public and other stakeholders.
How is the emergency situation terminated?
 - **Once there is no longer a threat a cancel message or all clear is issued.**
For Distant Tsunami Procedures:
What actions were taken in response to tsunami bulletins issued by PTWC, NWPTAC, and/or SCSTAC during the intersessional period?
The population was put on standby February 8th 2025 if an impending tsunami was an advisory was issued some of the systems were activated not the Sirens. All key agencies were notified. Once the threat was cancelled, the mechanisms that were activated were used to provide information. The Director of DDM went to the most popular emergency station an AM station ZBVI to inform the population what took place.
3. **National Sea Level Network**
Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.



4. ***This map illustrates the location of the Tide Gauge in Cane Garden Bay. GPS coordinates are 18.426 latitude , 64.660 longitude. Tide Gauge has a bubbler level installed.***

Information on Tsunami occurrences

Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.

No Tsunami arrival however the 8th February 2025 event highlighted many within our population is still not sure of the tsunami evacuation routes. More public outreach will have to be conducted in this regard.

5. **Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites**
Tsunami.gov , <https://redsismica.uprm.edu/index.php>
6. **Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements.**
We have a total of three tide gauges we would love to have functioning however budget constraints in installing these systems are lacking as well as some technical skills. Having our system CAP compliant would streamline our activations. This is an area that has been discussed for sometime however funding and reduced this possibility.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

7. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Disaster Management is actively engaged in efforts to enhance tsunami preparedness and public awareness. Over the past year, customized evacuation maps and signage have been developed, documented, and integrated into the National GIS database to support efficient response and maintenance. Tsunami-related information has been incorporated into multiple outreach presentations, reaching a broad audience.

The department maintains a network of 16 sirens across the territory, with recent upgrades to the Tsunami Warning Focal Point's controller to strengthen early warning capabilities. Collaborative efforts with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network have resulted in the reinstallation and commissioning of seismic stations on Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and Anegada, along with the reestablishment of core GPS stations and reinstallation of strong motion sensors on key islands.

Furthermore, the department organized a comprehensive territory-wide evacuation exercise for Caribe Wave, which successfully engaged over 4,000 participants—approximately 25% of Tortola’s population—strengthening community resilience and preparedness.

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8. NARRATIVE

The Department of Disaster Management remains committed to educating the public about tsunami hazards and potential impacts. Over the past year, we developed customized maps for government agencies and private sector partners, highlighting evacuation routes and safe zones. All tsunami signage has been mapped and uploaded to the National GIS database for easy reference and maintenance, with photos of all routes safely documented.

We ensured that tsunami-related information was included in all outreach presentations, conducting approximately five such sessions during the year. Our siren network, consisting of 16 units across the territory, continues to be monitored and maintained, and we upgraded the controller at the Tsunami Warning Focal Point for improved response.

Collaborating with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN), we reinstalled and commissioned seismic stations on Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and Anegada—communications links are being reestablished, but the stations are fully operational. Core GPS stations have been reconnected with the International GPS Network on Anegada and Virgin Gorda. Additionally, strong motion sensors were reinstalled on Virgin Gorda, Tortola, and Jost Van Dyke with the support of the Puerto Rico Strong Motion Program.

The Department continues to facilitate a territory-wide evacuation exercise for Caribe Wave, drawing participation from over 4,000 persons—approximately 25% of the population on Tortola.

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