

NATIONAL REPORT

Submitted by (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

BASIC INFORMATION

1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

Name: Michelle Forbes

Title: Director

Organization: National Emergency Management Organization

Postal Address: Old Montrose, Kingstown, St. George, VC0100, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

E-mail Address: nemosvg@gmail.com; michelleforbes@gov.vc.

Telephone Number: 784-456-2975

Fax Number:

Cellular Telephone Number: 784-531-6108

2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.

Name: Michelle Forbes

Title: Director

Responsible Organization: National Emergency Management Organization

Postal Address: Old Montrose, Kingstown, St. George, VC0100, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

E-mail Address: nemosvg@gmail.com; michelleforbes@gov.vc

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National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)

Person in Charge: Michelle Forbes

Title: Director

Responsible Organization: National Emergency Management Organization

Postal Address: Old Montrose, Kingstown, St. George, VC0100, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number: 784-531-6108

3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable

(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in the country)

Name:

Michel

le

Forbes

Title:

Director

or

Postal Address:

Old Montrose, Kingstown, St. George, VC0100, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

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Emergency Telephone Number: 784- 456-2975
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number: 784-531-6108

4. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami threat exists, less than 1 hour travel time)

For local events, as outlined in the National Tsunami SOPs, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) is the Organization responsible for the identification and characterization of tsunamigenic events. In addition, the Seismic Research Centre (SRC) will provide support to the PTWC for the characterization of Volcano Observatory Notice for Tsunami threat (VONUT) events for SVG. The SRC's role as the organization responsible for monitoring all seismic and volcanic activity in the Caribbean is critical to ensuring timely information is relayed amidst heightened activity at the 'kick em Jenny' underwater volcano.

Threshold Criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency

The threshold criteria for local events are primarily based on the established natural signs of an imminent tsunami. That is, a very strong earthquake followed by a significant retreat along the coast or shoreline areas, and a loud sound of water racing towards shoreline areas. The threshold criteria for local events are supported by guidance from the PTWC, which suggests the occurrence of a strong earthquake, i.e., a magnitude of 7.1 MW or more, at a shallow depth (less than 100km) under the sea or very close to the coast.

What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) performs the dual functions of National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As such, NEMO is responsible for developing action items and providing early warning information to the general public in the event of a potential tsunami threat to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. However, this is a temporary arrangement as plans are afoot to transfer the NTWC duties to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Meteorological Services in the not-too-distant future.

How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within the country?

Tsunami information is disseminated via traditional media (Radio, communication radios (VHF radios), telephone, and television) and various social media platforms (WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and email)

Who is it disseminated to?

Tsunami information is first sent to the prime minister, other ministers, and senior staff or heads of departments. These persons are contacted by email and telephone, where possible. The information is then passed on to emergency focal points in ministries, departments, and the business community. The information is further relayed to community focal points for action. Information is also disseminated to the wider community via social media platforms by the NEMO communication team.

How is the emergency terminated?

The emergency is terminated in response to: First, an end-of-event message issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. The end of event triggers an 'end of threat' message by the TWFP (NEMO). The end of threat message then triggers an assessment of the situation in the country by emergency service personnel. This assessment takes into account the existing threat to lives and livelihoods in coastal areas. Once deemed safe, the Director of NEMO will issue an all-clear message to the general public.

5. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Regional Tsunami (when a regional tsunami threat exists, 1–3 hour travel time)

For Regional events, as outlined in the National Tsunami SOPs, the Pacific Tsunami

Warning Centre (PTWC) is the Organization responsible for the identification and characterization of tsunamigenic events.

Threshold Criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency

The threshold criteria for regional events are supported by guidance from the PTWC, which suggests the occurrence of a strong earthquake, i.e., a magnitude of 7.1 MW or more, at a shallow depth (less than 100km) under the sea or very close to the coast.

What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) performs the dual functions of National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As such, NEMO is responsible for developing action items and providing early warning information to the general public in the event of a potential tsunami threat to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc.) disseminated within the country?

Tsunami information is disseminated via traditional media (Radio, communication radios (VHF radios), telephone, and television) and various social media platforms (WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and email)

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Tsunami information is first sent to the prime minister, other ministers, and senior staff or heads of departments. These persons are contacted by email and telephone, where possible. The information is then passed on to emergency focal points in ministries, departments, and the business community. The information is further relayed to community focal points for action. Information is also disseminated to the wider community via social media platforms by the NEMO communication team.

How is the emergency terminated?

The emergency is terminated in response to: First, an end-of-event message issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. The end of event triggers an 'end of the threat' message by the TWFP (NEMO). The end of the threat message then triggers an assessment of the situation in the country by emergency service personnel. This assessment takes into account the existing threat to lives and livelihoods in coastal areas. Once deemed safe, the Director of NEMO will issue an all-clear message to the general public.

6. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami threat exists, more than 3-hour travel time)

For distant events, as outlined in the National Tsunami SOPs, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) is the Organization responsible for the identification and characterization of tsunamigenic events.

Threshold Criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency

The threshold criteria for local events are supported by guidance from the PTWC, that is, the occurrence of a strong earthquake, i.e., a magnitude of 7.1 MW or more, at a shallow depth (less than 100km) under the sea or very close to the coast of origin.

What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) performs the dual functions of National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal

Point (TWFP) for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As such, NEMO is responsible for developing action items and providing early warning information to the general public in the event of a potential tsunami threat to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. ***How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc.) disseminated within the country?***

Tsunami information is disseminated via traditional media (Radio, communication radios (VHF radios), telephone, and television) and various social media platforms (WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and email)

Who is it disseminated to?

Tsunami information is first sent to the prime ministers, other ministers, and senior staff or heads of departments. These persons are contacted by email and telephone, where possible. The information is then passed on to emergency focal points in ministries, departments, and the business community. The information is further relayed to community focal points for action. Information is also disseminated to the wider community via social media platforms by the NEMO communication team.

Actions taken for distant tsunamis

For a distant tsunami whose ETA is more than 3 hours, the actions are as follows. A tsunami information statement is disseminated to the general public with instructions to pay attention to the next updates. The tsunami alert level will be set to YELLOW.

The National Emergency Operation Centre will be activated following a meeting of the National Emergency Council (NEC). The NEC meeting will trigger a series of preparedness actions at the national and community levels as outlined in the National Disaster Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

These activities include the opening of emergency shelters, stockpiling and provisioning of emergency equipment, and emergency evacuation of the vulnerable in coastal locations. Preparedness actions also include the dissemination of early warning information on all media platforms, which may contain key messages such as those requiring persons to move to higher ground. As the tsunami ETA moves below 2 hours, the alert level will be elevated to RED. At this point, an evacuation order will be communicated to all residents to avoid all low-lying coastal areas. Persons will be asked to remain at high elevation until the all clear is given.

How is the emergency terminated?

The emergency is terminated in response to: First, an end-of-event message issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. The end of event triggers an 'end of threat' message by the TWFP (NEMO). The end of threat message then triggers an assessment of the situation in the country by emergency service personnel. This assessment takes into account the existing threat to lives and livelihoods in coastal areas. Once deemed safe, the prime minister will issue an all-clear message to the general public.

7. National Sea Level Network

Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.

Stations kindly provided by National Emergency Management Office (Saint Vincent & Grenadines)										
Status at 2026-04-15 23:19 GMT : 2 stations listed ordered by delay										
Show: All known stations				Info: General information						
Code	GLOSS ID	Country	Location	Connection	DCP ID	Last observation		Delay	Transmit Interval	View
						Level	Time in GMT			
calq		Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Calliaqua Coast Guard Base	SOVG10	53500294	2.01	2026-03-26 18:18	20d	5'	[open]
chat		Saint Vincent & Grenadines	Chateaubelair	SOVG10	53500C46	0.01	23:15	4'	5'	[open]

Fig 1. A table showing the position and description of sea level stations in SVG

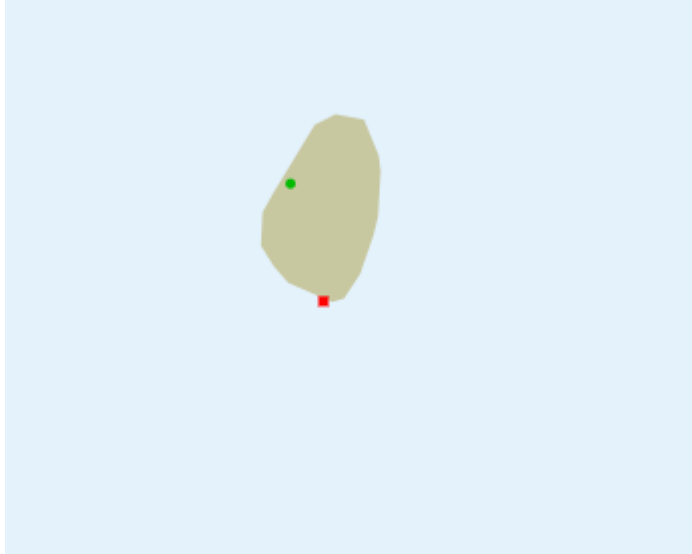


Fig 2. A map showing the location of sea level stations in SVG

8. Information on Tsunami occurrences/Tsunami Exercises

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

The two tsunami stations have recorded negligible tsunami activity since their installation. However, in January 2022, the Calliaqua station recorded a weak signal wave associated with the Hunga Tonga Hunga haapai event. Before this event, the last significant tsunami event was caused by the eruption of Kick ' Em Jenny in 1939. Sea level observations and other information on the waves' impacting coastlines in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were not documented and recorded with sufficient detail. However, the historical record suggested a series of tsunami-like waves with an amplitude of 2m was observed.

Notwithstanding the limited experiences of tsunamigenic events in the region, the National Emergency Management Organization of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has championed increased awareness of tsunami science, preparedness, and response plans since 2008. The initial activities have morphed from pilot activities and programme under the 'tsunami smart' umbrella into a National Tsunami Programme from the year 2014 to the present. The National Tsunami Programme includes a dedicated public education, awareness, and outreach programme with schools and communities during the months of February and March. It also includes work with targeted communities to achieve tsunami recognition status and hosting training with the staff of the NTWC and TWFP.

In 2012, NEMO joined with other regional disaster management organizations and members of the ICG CARIBE-EWS in executing its first Caribewave exercise. The

Organization has since participated in every activity since 2012. Some of the notable activities were the tsunami evacuation drills in Union Island (2020) and Bequia (2023). Both activities saw record numbers of participants, with over 500 persons from schools and communities and various organizations in the public and private sectors taking part. Moreover, financial institutions and government agencies were also beneficiaries of Caribewave tsunami drills in 2022 and 2024. On each occasion, each organization developed and tested its tsunami SOPs.

Lessons Learned

Fifteen years of coordinating the national tsunami programme have provided various learning opportunities. To name a few, the success of a national tsunami programme requires a commitment from all stakeholders. Most importantly, the input, support, and advocacy of policymakers are key to the process. There is a need for greater partnership with the public and private sector agencies. This public-private partnership may be one approach to reduce the prohibitive financial constraints (costs to execute community engagement sessions, printing, and development of tsunami evacuation maps) that impede the delivery of TR programmes. Regional collaboration is paramount for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Caribbean islands. This collaboration prevents countries from reinventing ideas. For instance, a country can share experience and documents, which can make processes such as TRRP easier to implement. As a result, through collaboration, a new TR programme can be delivered with greater efficiency, enabling countries to attain their Ocean Decade targets at a faster rate



Fig. 3: Argyle to Kingstown Tsunami Recognition Ceremony



Fig. 4: tsunami evacuation drill in Union Island, 2020.



Fig. 5: tsunami evacuation drill in Clare Valley Primary School 2016



Fig. 6: Evacuees at the assembly point in Clifton, Union Island, 2020.

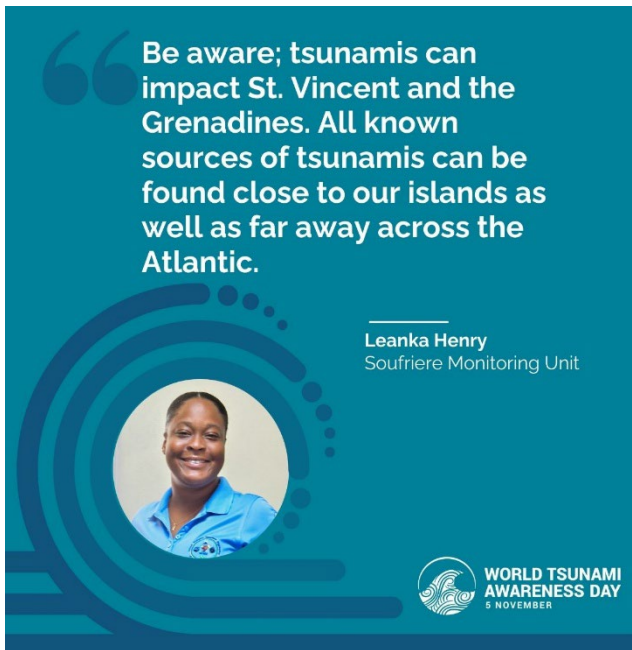


Fig.7: Tsunami poster with key messages from NEMO



Fig 8: Caribewave post in support of the tsunami evacuation drill in Bequia, 2023.



Fig 9: Tsunami community meeting



Fig 10: tsunami decision support tools workshop

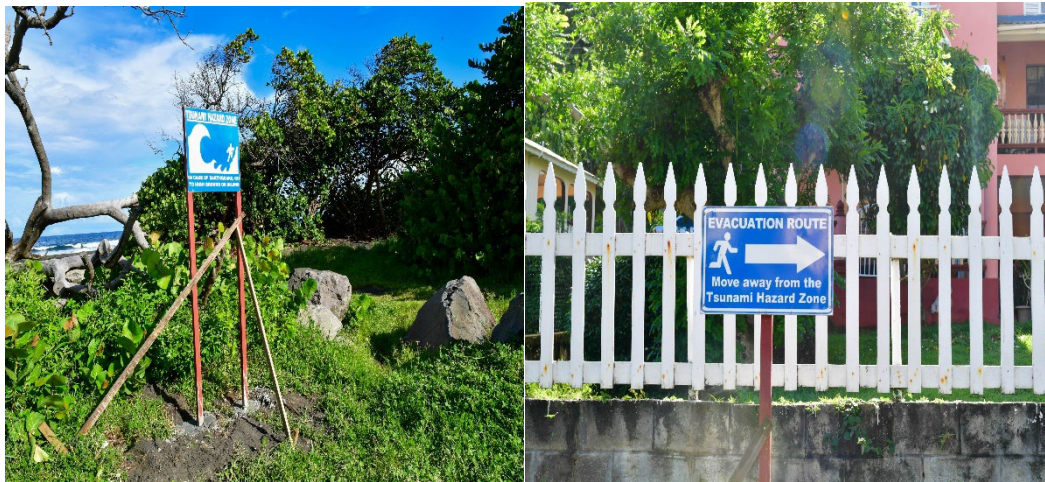


Fig 11: Tsunami hazard zone and evacuation signs installed in the community

9. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites

NEMO Website:

nemo.gov.vc

URL: <https://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/>

NEMO St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Facebook

URL: <https://www.facebook.com/nemosvg#>

NEMO Instagram – nemosvg20

URL: <https://www.instagram.com/nemosvg20/>

10. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements. *This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan*

NEMO SVG endeavors to expand the National Tsunami Programme to deliver the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14), challenge 6 of the UN Ocean Decade, and the Early Warning for All initiative. Through the UN Ocean Decade Programme, NEMO intends to continue its Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme to ensure all low-lying coastal areas in St. Vincent and the Grenadines are prepared to reduce the risks and impacts of a tsunami. The future tsunami warning programme thus seeks to accomplish the following goals:

- Enhance and expand the public education awareness programme for all residents and visitors to the island. This expansion will promote greater involvement of local artistes and cultural actors in the development of local jingles, videos, and infomercials.
- Continue SOPs and plans development with public and private sector organizations/ businesses/ ministries.
- Continue to deliver on the TRRP mandate by establishing tsunami-ready communities across the 10 broad sub-regions on the mainland or islands of the Grenadines. The 10 sub-regions /islands are as follows;

MAINLAND ST. VINCENT

- Argyle to Kingstown – Complete (pending renewal)
- Edinboro to Layou – Preliminary work commenced

- Barrouallie to Richmond
- Peruvian Vale to Georgetown
- Rabacca to Fancy

GRENADINES

- Union Island – Complete (pending renewal)
 - Bequia – In progress (Target Nov 2026)
 - Mustique
 - Canouan
 - Mayreau
- Support the transition through training and resource mobilization of the National Tsunami Warning Centre to be hosted by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Meteorological Services.
 - Continued participation in the annual Caribewave regional exercise
 - Conduct synergy exercises with local stakeholders to improve communication and coordination.

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief statement of no more than one page addressing all items discussed in the Narrative section of the National Report (below).

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) leads the country’s Tsunami preparedness and response plans and activities, serving as both the National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and the Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP).

Evolving from the 2008 "Tsunami Smart" initiative, the current National Tsunami Programme is guided by standardized operating procedures (SOPs) that define the nation’s response framework. Key successes to date include:

Widespread Outreach: Annual education and awareness campaigns tailored to local communities.

Strategic Oversight: The formation of a National Tsunami Board and SOPs.

International Recognition: Achieving UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready status for Union Island and Argyle to Kingstown.

Local Preparedness: Installing coastal signage and conducting annual drills, tabletop exercises, and participation in the regional CARIBE WAVE exercise. However, progress faces hurdles—specifically, funding gaps that stall the rollout of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) to the remaining seven (7) sub-regions/ islands.

High costs for community consultations and map production, alongside a need for more specialized expertise in threat forecasting, remain critical challenges. Looking ahead to 2030, the program aims to secure Tsunami Ready status for all ten sub-regions and transition technical warning responsibilities to the SVG Meteorological Services.

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12. NARRATIVE

Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities, and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), tsunami exercises, as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

The National Tsunami Programme for St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an ever-evolving framework of plans and activities aimed at reducing risks to tsunamis. For instance, there has been a notable change to the initial criteria for local events. The local tsunami warning procedures were

updated to include a new Preventive Evacuation Order. The evacuation order is issued by national authorities based on natural tsunami warning signs and in the absence of any official product from the PTWC.

Strategic programming has given rise to several best practices over the years, not least of which is the execution of two nationwide tsunami activities (Caribewave and World Tsunami Awareness Day) per year. Other best practices include frequent reviews and testing of emergency communication radios, a sustained annual public education and awareness programme, the use of tsunami decision support tools during exercises and activities, and training in the use of emergency management tools and equipment, such as chainsaws, power washers, water pumps, etc., to enhance the human resource capacity at the community level post-impact.

Tsunami mitigation activities

Dedicated tsunami awareness plans and activities with the private sector, for instance, presentations and SOP plan development sessions with several hotels, banks, and other financial institutions. Oftentimes, many of the residents in communities miss out on community engagement opportunities. These sessions take place during hours or periods of heightened economic activity, which is inaccessible to a large percentage of the working population. As a consequence, NEMO has modified its community engagement strategy to meet with ministries, other government departments, and sector-specific groups (fisherfolk communities) during their regular work hours.

NEMO has also improved the public education and outreach programme through enhanced engagement with stakeholders. Through this approach, schools in the low-lying communities in the Parish of St. George (Argyle to Kingstown), Edinboro to Buccament on the south western coast of the island, Bequia, and Union Island have been exposed to more information and outreach material on tsunami science and tsunami readiness principles and concepts on a regular basis. NEMO has executed similar engagements in the aforementioned low-lying coastal communities.

A total of thirty-nine (39) Tsunami signs has been installed in several communities on the mainland. Tsunami signage is broken down as follows; there are seven (7) billboards displaying tsunami evacuation maps of the respective tsunami-recognized communities. Other signs include the tsunami hazard zone, assembly points, and evacuation routes. On Union Island, two large billboards and other tsunami signs (approximately 25) have been installed. The Public education, awareness, and outreach programme is complemented by greater tsunami information on all social media platforms. The message includes information on the dynamics of tsunamigenesis, the characteristics of propagation of the waves, and key messages, such as recognizing the key tsunami natural signs and planned intervention pre- and post-impact.

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... Date:16.04.2026..... Name: ...Kenson Stoddard.....

