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Volume 1, Number 10, October, 1999

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Tsunami Program News

Brian's Book is Published!!

Surviving a tsunami--Lessons from Chile, Hawaii, and Japan, by Brian Atwater and others, has been published by the U.S. Geological Survey, as its Circular 1187. **Free** copies are available from the state emergency managers. (See their names and addresses, p. 9.)

Report on the Newport Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Steering Group was held in Newport, Oregon, Oct. 5-7. Attendees included: Eddie Bernard, Brian Atwater, Craig Weaver, Chris Jonientz-Trisler, Gary Brown, Richard Przywarty, Rich Eisner, Lori Dengler, Brian Yanagi, Mark Darienzo, George Priest, John Beaulieu, George Crawford, Tim Walsh, and Connie Manson. Program activities and accomplishments were reviewed in the first day, future program goals and plans were discussed in the second day, and on the third day they went on a field trip to the Newport area to see progress on the local tsunami mitigation activities there.

Local Activities: California

The Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group (RCTWG) sponsored an Earthquake/Tsunami Education room at the 1999 Humboldt county Fair August 12 - 22. The purpose of the room was to provide attractive, informative and hands-on experiences to illustrate earthquake and tsunami

hazards along California's north coast. The County Fair provided a large room in the main commercial building free of charge and gave admission and parking passes for volunteers who were coordinating the room. \$10,906 was donated to the fair project for reprinting the earthquake preparedness magazine "Living on Shaky Ground: How to Survive Earthquakes and Tsunamis on California's North Coast" and donations were solicited from local organizations, businesses and individuals to support acquisition of materials and construction of exhibits. Humboldt State University and the American Red Cross provided funds to reprint " which were made available to fair visitors along with other preparedness information. The room also featured a "Tsunami Gift Shop" with tsunami cups, t-shirts imprinted with the tsunami logo and the names of room sponsors, and disaster kits. Over 6000 people visited the room over the fair's 11-day run. Although no formal evaluation of the project was conducted, the response to the room from fair officials, room volunteers and the comments of visitors was uniformly positive.

Exhibits:

- Wave Tank: A Plexiglas two-chambered tank driven by a hand crank to illustrate the difference in wave velocity between shallow and deep water.
- Shake Table: A rheostat-controlled variable shaking platform with model houses and structural elements that illustrate structural and nonstructural hazards.
- Tsunami Core: A 3 foot long, 2.5 inch diameter tsunami core collected from the fresh water marsh south of Crescent City on August 11, 1999. The core site was within the inundation zone of both the 1960 and 1964 tsunamis generated by the Chilean and Alaskan earthquakes. Both of these events show up as about half inch- thick sand lenses within the fresh water peat deposits. Near the bottom of the core, a 6-inch sand layer is believed to represent the last near-source tsunami event generated by the Cascadia subduction zone.

(continued, p. 3)

TsuInfo Alert

is published monthly by the
Washington Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Earth Resources.
This publication is free upon request and is available in print (by surface mail) and electronically (by e-mail).
TsuInfo Alert and the TsuInfo document delivery program are made possible by a grant from the Federal
Emergency Management Agency via the Washington Military Department, Division of Emergency Management.

Participants in the TsuInfo program can request copies of reports listed in this issue from:

Library

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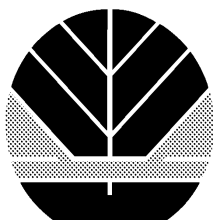
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands

(continued from p. 1)

- Samoa Peninsula Topographic Map: A detailed topographic map at a scale of 1:2,500 illustrating areas of high ground and potential refuge.
- Seismograph: An MEQ 800 portable seismograph was set up in the room with a sensor located at a hidden location in the room. Visitors (especially children) were encouraged to find the sensor by heavily walking about the room while watching the seismograph response.
- Tsunami Theatre: An LCD projection system and videotapes on tsunami and earthquakes.
- Samoa Gates Bridge Project: An explanation of the Samoa Bridge seismically-triggered gate project and retrofit plans.
- Tsunami Mitigation Projects in Redwood National and State Parks: Native stories and tsunami information program in the park.
- Earthquake Safety Programs in Humboldt County Schools
- National Weather Service: How the Tsunami Warning Centers work.
- Sources of North Coast Seismicity
- Disaster Safety: Preparedness information in both English and Spanish from the Red Cross.
- Neighborhood Emergency Services Teams (NEST) Program

For more information on the Fair Project, contact Lori Dengler at lad1@axe.humboldt.edu

California Preparedness Guide is Reprinted!!

The earthquake and tsunami preparedness magazine, *Living on Shaky Ground: How To Survive Earthquakes On the North Coast*, has been updated and reprinted. Copies are available from the Department of Geology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521, (707) 826-3931 or email Rosemary Hawkins at: hawkins@laurel.humboldt.edu

Oregon Tsunami Evacuation Maps

Tsunami evacuation maps are now available for nine communities on the Oregon coast. (The first six listed were funded by Oregon Emergency Management/National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program money, and the last three were produced by local funds.) A copy of the Florence area map is included in this issue of *TsuInfo Alert*.

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Editors' note: Please send us advance notice of **YOUR state's tsunami-related events**. *TsuInfo Alert* serves five states and the coverage is meant to be equal. Nice goal. We're sitting in offices in Washington state, with unequal access to mounds of Washington data. Help!

E-mails don't take long. A phone call is easy. Slipping a fact sheet or brochure in the mail is fast. The basic information is: event name, event date, event location, and phone/email/URL addresses for further information. Be as terse or as verbose as you want. Alert us to seminars, conferences, month-long awareness efforts, classes... anything you think is important, anything you would like other emergency managers to know. Our contact information is always on page two.

EVENTS

October

Washington State Tsunami Hazard Month

October 13, 1999

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (U.N.)
For details about opportunities and activities planned for World Disaster Reduction Day 1999 see <http://www.idndr.org/campaign/reday.htm> or email idndr@dha.unicc.org

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RESOURCES

New Tsunami Mitigation Materials, September, 1999

compiled by

Connie J. Manson

Note: Free reprints of these materials are available. (See page 2 for ordering information)

Natural Hazards and Tsunami Hazard Mitigation

Atwater, B. F.; Cisternas, Marco, V; Bourgeois, Joanne; Dudley, W. C.; Hendley, J. W., II; Stauffer, P. H., compilers, 1999, *Surviving a tsunami--Lessons from Chile, Hawaii, and Japan*: U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1187, 18 p.

This book contains true stories that illustrate how to survive--and how not to survive--a tsunami. Wonderfully illustrated with photographs and maps. It is meant for people who live, work, or play along coasts that tsunamis may strike.

Our **very highest recommendation** for the entire tsunami community--especially local emergency managers. Multiple, **free** copies are available through your state emergency managers; see their names and addresses on p. ___ of this issue.

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency; American Red Cross, 1998?, *Adventures of the disaster dudes--Presenter's guide; A children's disaster preparedness program*: U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, 29 p.

This is the companion guide for the video, *Adventures of Disaster Dudes* (see p. -- of this issue). Recommended for teachers.

National Research Council Committee on Assessing the Costs of Natural Disasters, 1999, *The impacts of natural disasters--A framework for loss estimation*: National Academy Press, 68 p.

Proposes thorough ways to consistently compile information about the economic impacts of natural disasters. Highly recommended for local emergency managers and government officials.

Technical Research

British Columbia

Zelt, B. C.; Dotzev, N. T.; Ellis, R. M.; Rogers, G. C., 1999,

Coda Q in southwestern British Columbia, Canada: *Seismological Society of America Bulletin*, v. 89, no. 4, p. 1083-1093.

Mulder, T. L., 1995, *Small earthquakes in southwestern British Columbia (1975-1991)*: University of Victoria Master of Science thesis, 117 p.

Washington

Williams, R. A.; Stephenson, W. J.; Frankel, A. D.; Odum, J.K., 1999, *Surface seismic measurements of near-surface P- and S-wave seismic velocities at earthquake recording stations, Seattle, Washington*: *Earthquake Spectra*, v. 15, no. 3, p. 565-584.

Roberts, L.K., 1999, *Seismic characterization of the northern*

Puget Lowland, Washington: Western Washington University Master of Science thesis, 80 p.

Papua New Guinea

Ripper, I. D.; Letz, H., 1999, *The Sissano Lagoon (Aitape) tsunami--Which earthquake was responsible?*:

Geological Survey of Papua New Guinea Report 99/7, 19 p.

Historical Tsunami Data Base for the U.S.

"The development of the tool continues. Dr. Gusiakov from the Novosibirsk Laboratory spent several weeks in the U.S. during January-February, gathering additional data. The data base now contains information on 208,899 earthquakes dating from 186 BC, 1128 of which (dating from 47 BC) generated tsunamis, and 6904 records of tsunami height data which date from 416 AD. ...When the DOS version is finalized I will distribute another set of CDs.

A work order has been signed with Novosibirsk for this fiscal year where the emphasis will be on producing a pure Windows version. While the DOS version will run under Windows 95 or 98, the pure Windows version will facilitate the use of a number of options."

The 1998 status report said the data base would allow emergency managers to access information on historical tsunamis in their areas and would provide emergency managers with historical data for a specific event in their areas for which a Watch, a Warning, or a TIB/TAB has been issued. (TIB is tsunami information bulletin; TAB is tsunami advisory bulletin. TIB seems to be a designation used in the U.S., whereas TAB is used by Canada.)

(from Richard Hagemeyer, PMEL, NOAA
<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami-hazard/Hagemeyerapr99rpt.html>)

Videos Available for Community Screenings, Training Sessions, Public Education

(see page 2 for ordering information)

Adventures of Disaster Dudes. American Red Cross. 14 min.

Preparedness for pre-teens

The Alaska Earthquake, 1964. Creative Arts Studio, Inc. for the U.S. Geological Survey, 1970.. 20 min.

Includes data on the tsunamis generated by that event.

Cannon Beach Fire District Community Warning System (COWS). Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District. 21 min. 1994

An explanation of the warning system selected by Cannon Beach, and why they elected to use cows mooing as the monthly audible test

Disasters Are Preventable. U.S. Agency for International Development. 22 min. 1998.

Ways to reduce losses from various kinds of disasters around the world through preparedness and prevention. Available in both French and English. Free copies (VHS or PAL formats) are available from: Maxx Dilley, U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Washington DC 20523-8602; ph: 202/712-5117, mdilley@usaid.gov

Killer Wave: Power of the Tsunami. National Geographic Video, 1997. 60 min.

The Prediction Problem. Ambrose Video, 1990. 58 min.

Earthquakes and tsunamis around the Pacific Rim. (Episode 3 of the PBS series, "Fire on the Rim")

The Restless Planet. Thirteen/WNET and Granada Television, 1998. 60 min.

About earthquakes, with examples from Japan, Mexico, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in California. (From the "Savage Earth" series)

Tsunami and Earthquake Video. International Tsunami Information Center, 1995. 60 min.

Includes "Tsunami: How occur!? How protect!?! Learning from Japan's tsunami disasters" (13 min.), "Learning from earthquakes: Earthquake disaster countermeasures in big cities," (44 min.), and "Computer modeling of alternative source scenarios," (5 min.).

Tsunami: Surviving the Killer Waves. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. 13:35 or 14:38 min.

Presented in two versions: one is the straight documentary; the other has Discussion Breaks inserted.

Understanding Volcanic Hazards. International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of Earth's Interior, 1995. 25 min.

Includes information about volcano-induced tsunamis and landslides

The Wave: a Japanese Folktale. BFA Educational Media. 9 min.

Animated film to help start discussions of tsunami preparedness for children.

Waves of Destruction. Thirteen/WNET and Granada Television, 1998. 60 min.

Tsunamis around the Pacific Rim. (From the "Savage Earth" series)

Websites of the Month

<http://cindi.usgs.gov>

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) extensively monitors and evaluates threats posed by many natural hazards. Its resources include a global seismic network, a national streamflow monitoring program, regional volcano observatories, and long-standing interagency partnerships in disaster mitigation and response. To help synthesize the vast amount of information available on hazards, the USGS has created the Center for Integration of Natural Disaster Information (CINDI), a research facility for: 1) developing and evaluating technology for information integration and dissemination; 2) performing research in data integration, analysis, modeling, and decision support; and 3) supporting the ongoing evolution of the USGS processing and delivery of hazards data. The CINDI Web site provides background information about the center and serves as a "gateway to information about natural hazards and disasters." The center itself selects individual disasters as case studies. The current focus is Hurricane Mitch, and this site incorporates much information about that disaster, including a "Central America Disaster Atlas" with multiple maps and map overlays displaying the effects of the storm.

<http://www.esri.com/hazards>

Through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Project Impact initiative, FEMA and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) have formed a national partnership aimed in part at providing

multihazard maps and information to U.S. residents, business owners, schools, community groups, and local governments via the Internet. The information provided via the ESRI Web site is intended to assist the building of disaster-resistant communities across the country by sharing geographic knowledge about local hazards. This Web site allows users to create on-line hazard maps for which they can specify location (by ZIP code, city, or congressional district) and the hazards to be shown. It also directs users to other sources of information, both on the Web and in the real world.

<http://www.explorezone.com>

This remarkable Web site seems to include all the hazard science news that's fit to print. It covers the latest meteorological, geological, hydrological, and space science news--much of it focusing on natural hazards. With sections on volcanoes, earthquakes, tornadoes, El Nino, global warming, hurricanes, and other natural phenomena, Explorezone provides both the latest news and latest scientific findings. The site includes links to information sources, numerous graphics and videos, book reviews, background information, an easily searchable index of scientific terms, and a special section entitled "the edge" that presents news ideas in science and technology.

from: *Natural Hazards Observer*, September 1999

Online Preparedness Newsletter

The Connection, *America's Bridge to Preparedness*, is an online newsletter from North American Emergency Management, "written by the people from around the country who are involved in community preparedness on a daily basis." The newsletter intends to "support community disaster preparedness efforts through the sharing of information and ideas."

In the first two issues, the emphasis is on CERT programs (community emergency response teams) which stress preparedness of community members who will be the first responders in any emergency. Of the Turkey earth-quake, *The Connection* (v. 2, no. 1) states, "Once again we are reminded that following a major disaster we will be relying on the skills of our 'real first responders,' the community. We will be relying on them for those first few critical hours and maybe even for days until professional rescue teams and the military can mobilize and arrive in sufficient numbers to take over the load. The goal is to make this community response as effective as possible thus minimizing loss of life."

There is brief synopsis of each article (tagged by state) with the option to go to the full article. The articles can also be downloaded and/or printed in Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Local emergency responders are encouraged to submit articles and photographs about their own programs. Contact them at <http://www.naem.com/connection.html>

EMI Catalog Available

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is a national center for the development and delivery of emergency management training. The institute creates and conducts both resident and nonresident courses for U.S. citizens (and, occasionally, non-U.S. citizens; see the *Observer*, Vol. XXIII, No. 6, p. 19). EMI recently issued its resident course catalog for the fall 1999-summer 2000 academic year, with programs addressing a broad spectrum of emergency management skills. The catalog includes an application form. To obtain a copy, or to receive detailed information about a specific course, contact FEMA/EMI, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727; or see the EMI Web site: <http://www.fema.gov/EMI>. (from: *Natural Hazards Observer*, September 1999)

BOOK REVIEWS

by
Lee Walkling

Disaster Evacuation and the Tourist Industry, by Thomas E. Drabek. University of Colorado, 1994.

In 1994, Drabek wrote his scholarly study *Disaster Evacuation and the Tourist Industry*, based upon the responses from 185 tourist industry executives. His woeful conclusion was the 1994 levels of preparedness were "highly inadequate." (p. xii)

Dr. V. Chandrasekar's preface addresses the problems with preparedness planning for transient populations: "Tourism, as a business, is boundless. The customers of this industry are a constantly floating population drawn from outside a "host" community. The fact they are "floating" has major implications for the industry's ability to be prepared for disasters. Tourist executives have to be in a constant training mode, since each successive wave of customers only live in the host community for a short duration of time. Other barriers are encountered, since each customer may carry a different cultural and social background. Often this is reflected in linguistic distinctions, as well. Tourists typically have limited knowledge and familiarity with the culture, social values, and geography of the host community. All of this puts tourists into a much more vulnerable position, as compared to resident populations, when disaster strikes." (p. xii)

Dr. Chandrasekar points out another difficulty: "...tourism is a highly behaviorally oriented industry. Tourist psychology is a very important ingredient of this industry. Excessively overt or intensive disaster preparedness activities by any single community has the possibility of conveying a level of risk that potential tourists may not want to take. Such actions could negatively impact the very businesses that we are trying to protect." (p. xiii)

Drabek, a highly regarded sociologist whose speciality is disaster behavior, begins the book with a 5-page Executive Summary, detailing the methods, objectives, findings and conclusions of his study. The next 200 pages deal with his interviews, the answers, and his statistical analyses. Chapter 9 "Future Policy Challenges and Opportunities" changes the emphasis from behavioral studies to policy issues, asking 1) Is there a need? 2) What policy priorities are perceived? 3) Whose job is it? and 4) What policy approaches are desired? (p. 201) Chapter 10 "Disaster Evacuation and the Tourist Industry" deals with lessons learned, future research needs, and a call for action, along with the author's summary and conclusion: "...the tourist industry is a ticking time bomb--a vulnerability of enormous catastrophic potential." (p. 233)

Disaster Evacuation Behavior: Tourists and Other Transients, by Thomas E. Drabek. University of Colorado, 1996.

Disaster Evacuation Behavior: Tourists and Other Transients studies 800 people (tourists and other transients) who had experienced either hurricanes or earthquakes away from home. Drabek defines transient as business travelers, tourists, migrant workers, homeless, and people in the process of relocating. Gary A. Kreps, in his preface, states the central finding of the book, "Simply put, customers expect the tourist industry to be prepared for natural or technological hazards, and failure to be prepared during an actual emergency will not be good for business." (p. xvi)

Again, Drabek begins with an Executive Summary of methods, major findings, research priorities, and an action agenda. His five objectives are "1) to describe the sequence of behavior that culminates in evacuation from disaster sites by persons who are away from their residences;...2) to describe the range of variation among these behavioral sequences for different types of evacuees, events, and locations; 3) to identify factors related to variation in these behavioral sequences; 4) to document perceptions of disaster victims regarding evacuation policies and procedures implemented by private firm executives and government agency representatives; and 5) to formulate relevant policy recommendations for local emergency managers and business executives." (p. 1) In Chapter 9 "Disaster Evacuation Policy" he documents tourists' opinions of and suggestions for the tourist industry's disaster preparedness policies. Chapter 10 "Evacuating Tourists and Other Types of Transients" concludes that "policies and procedures for the timely evacuation of tourists and other types of transients are spotty at best and frequently result in victims rating the performance of those they perceive as responsible as unacceptable; and investments in community disaster planning through active participation in and support of public-private partnerships in emergency management can reduce catastrophic vulnerabilities that are worsening daily." (p. 301)

Together, these two books look at two sides of the situation, disaster preparedness from the tourist business owners' point of view, and from the customers' point of view.

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For general emergency management information, contact:

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(907) 428-7039
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Infrequently Asked Questions

compiled by
Lee Walkling

What is a tide gage?

It's a device for measuring the height of tide. It may be simply a graduated staff in a sheltered location where visual observations can be made at any desired time, or it may be an instrument that automatically makes a continuous graphic record of tide height versus time.

What is a marigraph?

It's an elaborate recording instrument which makes a continuous graphic record of tide height against time. Such an instrument is usually actuated by a float in a pipe communicating with the sea through a small hole which filters out shorter waves.

Suppose someone asked for a tide gage record; where would I get one?

More than 3,000 tide gage records for tsunami events (1850-1983) from U.S. and foreign tide stations are available on microfiche. Each fiche consists of the recording at a given location for a specified tsunami event. Call Pat Lockridge for more information: (303) 497-6221 or pal@ngdc.noaa.gov. (Information found at <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/hazard/tsu.html>)

What is ITIC?

The International Tsunami Information Center, located in Hono-lulu, was established in 1965 by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). ITIC maintains and develops relationships with intergovernmental organizations, research and academic organizations, scientific community, local authorities, and the general public. To do this, ITIC sponsors or conducts technical training programs, workshops and seminars for professionals, as well as providing lectures, publications, educational materials and disaster preparedness programs for the public. Michael Blackford is the Director.

ITIC

*monitors the activities of the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific, utilizing 31 seismic stations, 79 tidal stations and 101 dissemination points across the Pacific.

*assists the World Data Center (Tsunami) in soliciting and collecting as complete a set as possible of seismic and tsunami wave records for each tsunami. ITIC prepares and disseminates a report of each tsunami. ITIC collects tidal records from selected gauging stations throughout the Pacific that may have recorded a tsunami.

*maintains a library, which is currently being indexed and catalogued by librarian Linda Sjogren.

*publishes research reports, catalogs, bibliographies and educational materials. The **Tsunami Newsletter**, annual, will be distributed on the ITIC website, hopefully starting in 1999.

*makes available technical information on tsunami warning system equipment, to keep Member States updated on state of the art technologies.

In 1968, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) formed an International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ICG/ITSU). In 1999, the Member States are Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, USSR, Hong Kong, United States, and Western Samoa.

(condensed from the ITIC webpage:
<http://www.shoa.cl/oceano/itic/itic.html>)

What is the National Sea Grant program?

The brief answer is the study of coastal ecosystem health, wise economic growth, and improved environmental quality. Quoting from the Sea Grant web page (<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/Plan/Ch2.html>), "Threats to continued development of the nation's coastal areas include degradation of the environment due to increased human activities and increased exposure of the populace to marine and coastal hazards. Degradation of coastal habitats and water quality combined with natural processes such as environmental change and severe storms threaten the sustainability of coastal communities. Through the implementation of research related to toxics, nutrient over-enrichment, habitat function and restoration, and prediction and preparedness for severe storms and other coastal hazards, Sea Grant can translate and transfer information to decision-makers and policy makers through its outreach capabilities. These steps will help ensure that proper policies and programs are in place to undergird the sustained economic vitality and safety of coastal communities."

How many people live on U.S. coastlines?

"Demographers estimate that well over half of the U.S. population will reside within 50 miles of the marine and Great Lakes coasts by the year 2000."

.....<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/Plan/Ch2.html>
National Sea Grant web page



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