

Tsunami Evacuation Case Study

La Push, Washington



*TARNS -- Third Workshop: Tsunami Warning Simulation Exercises
Nakorn Nayok, Thailand*

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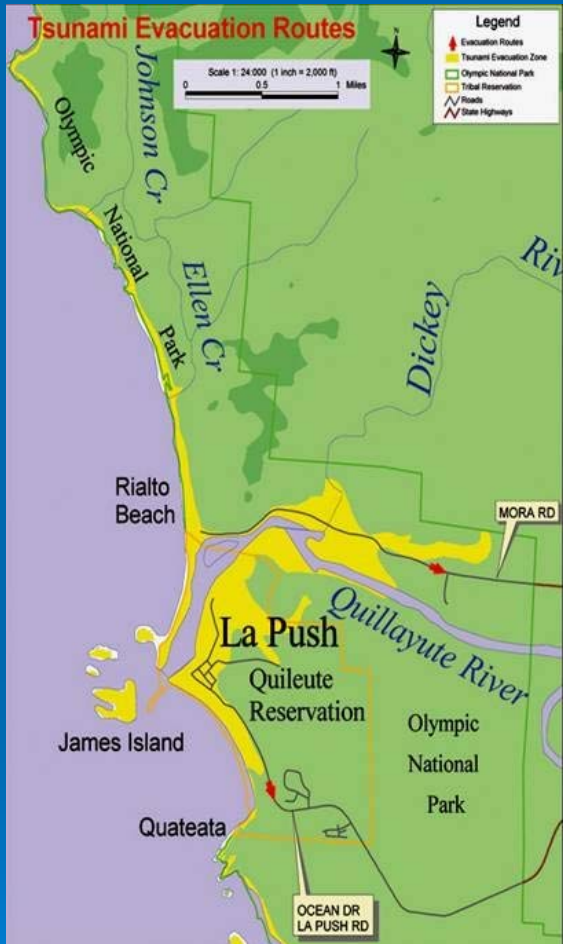
La Push is situated on Washington Coast and is subject to distant and local tsunami

Tsunami Vulnerability:

- **250 of the 350 residents in the community**
- **Tribal Center, Schools, Port, Fish Processing Plant other businesses**
- **Hotels and tourist**



La Push Evacuation Map



“If a tsunami warning were issued for the coast, people would have just minutes to travel nearly a mile down the only road out of the reservation” – Jamie James

Why Do Community Evacuation Drills

- Educate and train the community on evacuation
- Test evacuation plan and communication process/equipment
- Provide training for responders



"What I fear the most is at 3 o'clock in the morning, when we are all sleeping and not prepared. Our exercises, our drills, they're structured, they're choreographed. It's the real event that's going to be unpredictable." Jamie James

Evacuation Simulation Development

- Identify stakeholders and host meetings
- Discuss and agree on objectives of exercise
- Roles and responsibilities
- Level of participation by stakeholders
- Select date and time for evacuation
- Develop script for controllers to follow and to provide input
- Public Notification

In October, the Quileute Tribe had a reservation-wide tsunami drill with a complete evacuation of the lower village, getting everyone to high ground in nine minutes - the amount of time tribal leaders have determined is necessary to prevent loss of life.

Coordination is Key to Evacuation Drills

- **Coordinate with other local services that are affected by the drill (Local Transportation)**
- **Coordinate with organizations that could be impacted by the drill (Example: Businesses and Schools)**
- **Coordinate with agencies to observe and or evaluate the drill**
- **Coordinate with the media**

Community Evacuation Drills should Include

- Schools
- The elderly and disabled
- Hotel Staff
- Business
- Non Government Organizations (Example: Red Cross)



"Last year, we saw what a terrible thing a Tsunami can be," every one of us worries about what will happen to the over 50 children in the school when this happens." Chairman Russell Woodruff, Quilute Tribe, 2005

Involve the Media and other information outlets

- **Do press releases**
 - **Invite the media**
 - **Do articles in Newspapers and interviews**
 - **Send flyers to homes, schools and businesses**
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After the exercise

- **At the evacuation site hold a community forum**
 - **Have participating organizations discuss what went right and what needs to be improved**
 - **Ask community residents to provide their perspective**
- **Follow-up with a media release and interviews**
- **Publish any changes that are being made and tag those issues as high interest items for next exercise**



The bottom line....Are YOU Prepared?

