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Operations and Services

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Tsunami Warning Center Operations, NWSI 10-701

***LOCAL TSUNAMI WARNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
WSO PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA***

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This supplement describes responsibilities and provides guidance to the National Weather Service Office (WSO) at Pago Pago, American Samoa for taking action when there is a threat of a locally generated tsunami. It supplements instructions contained in NWSI 10-701.

Signed _____

July 30, 2010

R.J. LaDouce

Date

Director, Pacific Region

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1. General Responsibilities. This supplement describes responsibilities and provides guidance for WSO Pago Pago, American Samoa, in the event of a locally generated tsunami.

2. Tsunami Product Dissemination. Tsunami products for American Samoa are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, or their designated backup. Under normal circumstances WSO Pago Pago will disseminate tsunami watches, advisories and warnings issued by the PTWC via prescribed methods found in NWSI 10-701, and the local Station Duty Manual (SDM). In the event of a locally generated tsunami, time is of the essence and the following instructions will be followed.
 - 2.1 Locally Generated Tsunami Definition. A locally generated tsunami can occur when an earthquake of 7.1 magnitude or greater occurs within the perimeter of the Northern Tonga Trench. An earthquake of such magnitude is determined to have occurred when confirmed by the PTWC, West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC), or observed via the California Integrated Seismic Network (CISN) display.

3. Local Tsunami Warning Issuance and Dissemination. In the event of an earthquake where WSO Pago Pago staff experience extreme shaking indicating an event possible of generating a tsunami, the following steps will be followed:
 - Immediately place a call to PTWC to determine the location and magnitude of the earthquake.
 - If the PTWC determines that the location and magnitude of the earthquake is sufficient to generate a tsunami, a verbal confirmation to proceed with a tsunami warning will be provided.
 - If the communications system becomes inoperable, and/or the PTWC cannot be reached by phone, it will be assumed that the locally felt earthquake is of sufficient magnitude to generate a tsunami. The staff member on duty is authorized to proceed with the following local warning procedures.
 - Immediately broadcast the pre-recorded local tsunami warning message which will activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) using the Tsunami Warning code (TS.W), and proceed with all instructions in the Emergency section of the SDM related to issuing a local tsunami warning.