

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

TEMPLATE FOR NEWS RELEASE

USE AGENCY MASTHEAD

Contact: (insert name)
(insert phone number)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(insert date)

CARIBBEAN AND NORTHWESTERN ATLANTIC TSUNAMI EXERCISE TO BE CONDUCTED on 26 March 2014

(Insert community/county/state name) will join other localities in the Caribbean and northern WESTERN Atlantic region as a participant in a tsunami exercise on 26 March 2014. The purpose of this exercise is to evaluate communication, test standard operations procedures, tsunami response plans, increase tsunami preparedness, and improve coordination throughout the region.

(Insert a promotional comment from a local official, such as "The 2010 Haiti and Chile and 2011 Japan earthquakes and tsunamis have reminded the world again of the urgent need to be more prepared for such events," said (insert name of appropriate official). "This important exercise will test the current procedures of the Tsunami Warning System and help identify operational strengths and weaknesses in each community." (Please modify for uniqueness.)

The exercise, titled Caribe Wave/Lantex 14, will simulate a widespread Tsunami Warning and Watch situation throughout the Caribbean and North-western Atlantic which requires implementation of local tsunami response plans. The exercise will *(insert "include" or "not include")* public notification.

The exercise will simulate a major earthquake and tsunami generated 270 miles west of Gibraltar at 6:00 am Atlantic Standard Time *(or appropriate local time)* on 26 March 2014. A handbook has been prepared which describes the scenario and contains tsunami messages from the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC). The US NTWC is currently responsible for providing tsunami alerts to the Atlantic coasts of U.S. and Canada, the Gulf of Mexico coast, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (US and British) while the PTWC is the interim Regional Tsunami Watch Provider for the other countries in the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions.

Insert paragraph tailored for specific community. Could identify participating agencies and specific plans. Could describe current early warning program, past tsunami exercises (if any), ongoing mitigation and public education programs, etc. Could describe tsunami threat, history of tsunami hazards, if any.

If any real tsunami threat occurs during the time period of the exercise, the exercise will be terminated.

The exercise is sponsored by the UNESCO/IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS), the Caribbean Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and by the U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP – a partnership of 29 States and territories and three federal agencies). For more information on the U.S. tsunami warning system, see www.tsunami.gov. For more information on the NTHMP, see nthmp.tsunami.gov. For more information on the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, see <http://www.ioctsunami.org>.

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On the Web:

ICG/CARIBE EWS	http://www.ioc-tsunami.org
US National Tsunami Warning Center	http://ntwc.arh.noaa.gov
Pacific Tsunami Warning Center	http://ptwc.weather.gov
NOAA Tsunami Program	http://www.tsunami.gov
NTHMP:	http://nthmp.tsunami.gov
Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ctwp
Puerto Rico Seismic Network	http://prsn.uprm.edu

Insert state/local emergency response URLs

Source:

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. 2013. *Exercise Caribe Wave/Lantex 14. A Caribbean and Northwestern Atlantic Tsunami Warning Exercise, 26 March 2014. Volume 1: Participant Handbook*. IOC Technical Series, 109 vol.1. Paris: UNESCO. (English and Spanish)