



Coffee Break Training-Community Risk Reduction

Interactive Tsunami Evacuation Maps Now Available for the Pacific Northwest

No. CR-2014-14 June 25, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will view the interactive Tsunami Evacuation Map and consider how this type of resource would be used to lessen the risk in his or her community.

Interactive maps of tsunami evacuation zones in both Oregon and Washington are now available online and as a free smartphone app (TsunamiEvac-NW).

The Pacific Northwest Tsunami Evacuation Zones online portal and smartphone app provide an at-a-glance view of tsunami hazard zones along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. This tool was developed by the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) program. The online portal can be found at <http://nvs.nanoos.org/tsunami>. The maps have also been integrated into the smartphone app, TsunamiEvac-NW, which allows users to see whether they are in a tsunami evacuation zone and plan their own evacuation routes. This free app is available from the iTunes App Store and Android Market:

- iPhone: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tsunamievac-nw/id478984841?mt=8>.
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.nanoos.tsunami&hl=en>.

The coasts of Oregon, Washington and Northern California are exposed to tsunamis from either **distant** earthquakes (such as the March 11, 2011, Tōhoku, Japan tsunami) or **local** earthquake events. The greatest risk to Northwest coastal communities is from very large **locally** generated tsunamis produced by an earthquake (magnitude 8-9 and over) occurring immediately offshore of the Pacific Northwest coast on the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have mapped the zones that would be inundated by a tsunami. Both the interactive online portal and the smartphone app allow users to view whether their home, workplace, school, etc. is in a tsunami evacuation zone. Visitors to the coast can use the app to learn about tsunami risks before or during their visit. To help users develop and plan their own evacuation routes, the “Places” feature of this tool allows users to pinpoint a location by either entering an address or clicking on the map to see if that location is in a danger zone. Users can create multiple places with the feature, and if they log in with their myNANOOS account, those places will be saved automatically.

In addition to the maps, the portal and app provide information and resources of critical importance before, during and following a tsunami event, including:

- Direct links to tsunami warnings issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WCATWC).
- Information links to WCATWC and the United States Geological Survey.
- The “Markers” feature that displays preset locations of schools, bridges, assembly areas, and various local government and emergency management buildings.
- Downloadable brochures produced by DOGAMI and DNR showing evacuation routes and links to local emergency agencies for many communities along the Washington and Oregon coasts.

For more information, visit www.oregontsunami.org.

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/