



unesco

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

4.11 Tsunami Generated by Volcanos

Australian SOPs

Dr. Yuelong Miao

Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Yuelong.miao@bom.gov.au

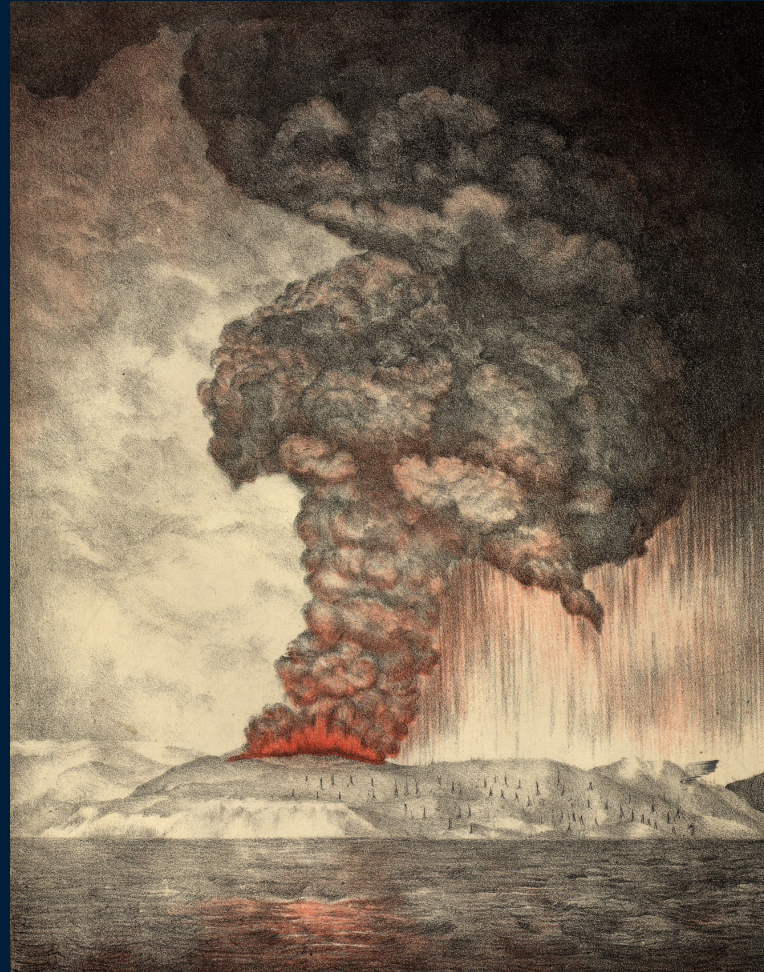
Many thanks to Robert Greenwood for the preparation

*31st Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami
Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS XXXI), Beijing, 8-11 April 2025*

JATWC Non-Seismic SOPs

1. Source Types
2. SOPs for Non-Seismic Events
3. Future Development

Volcanic Eruption



Celestial Impact



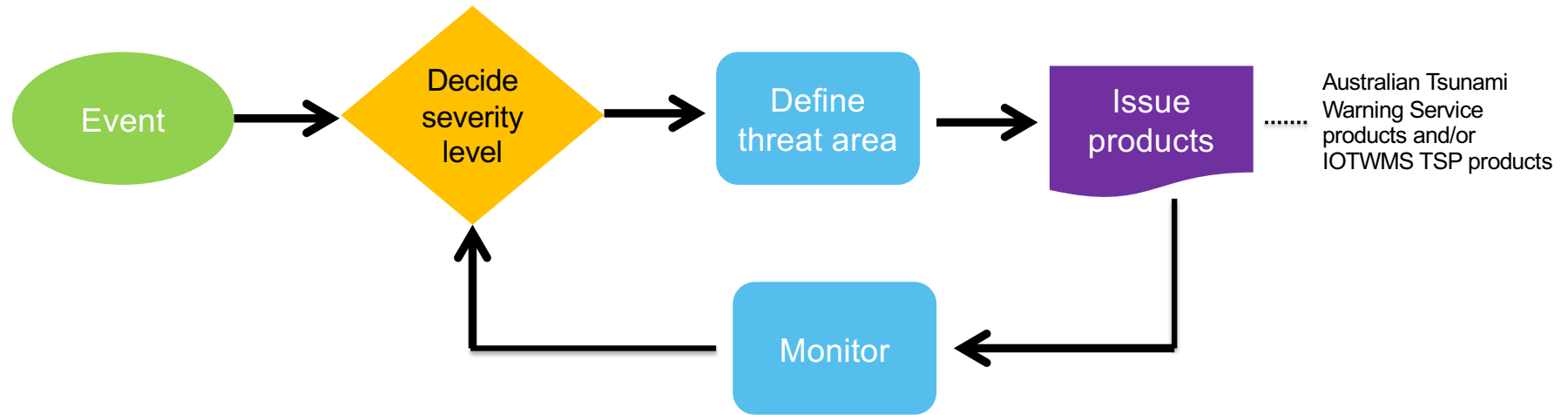
Landslide



Unknown



At a glance - JATWC SOPs for Non-Seismic Events



Severity	Threat Area	Default Threat Level	Upgrade possible?
Level 1	within 1-hour travel time isochrone	Marine	Yes, if above marine level observations
Level 3	within 3-hour travel time isochrone	Marine	Yes, if above marine level observations
Level 6	The expanding 6-hour travel time isochrone	Marine	Yes, if above marine level observations

JATWC SOPs for Volcanic Events

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
General Description	Non-Explosive	Small	Moderate	Moderate-Large	Large	Very Large			
Volume of Tephra (m ³)	1x10 ⁴	1x10 ⁶	1x10 ⁷	1x10 ⁸	1x10 ⁹	1x10 ¹⁰	1x10 ¹¹	1x10 ¹²	
Cloud Column Height (km) Above crater Above sea level	<0.1	0.1-1	1-5	3-15	10-25	>25			
Qualitative Description	"Gentle,"	"Effusive"	"Explosive"	"Cataclysmic,"	"paroxysmal,"	"colossal"			
				"Severe,"	"violent,"	"terrific"			
Eruption Type	Hawaiian	Strombolian	Vulcanian	Plinian	Ultra-Plinian				
Duration (continuous blast)	<1 hour	1-6 hrs	6-12 hrs	>12 hrs					
CAVW max explosivity (most explosive activity listed in CAVW)	Lava flow	Phreatic	Explosion or Nuée ardente						
	Dome or mudflow								
Tropospheric Injection	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Substantial					
Stratospheric Injection	None	None	None	Possible	Definite	Significant			
Eruptions (total in file)	755	963	3631	924	307	106	46	4	0

(1) *Issue no products and monitor for any potential tsunami:*

This action should be taken if there is little to no stratospheric injection and there is no evidence a tsunami has been generated.

(2) *Create the event with a Severity of 1 hour:* This action should be taken if there is little to no stratospheric injection and there is evidence that a small tsunami has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a low-level Marine Threat.

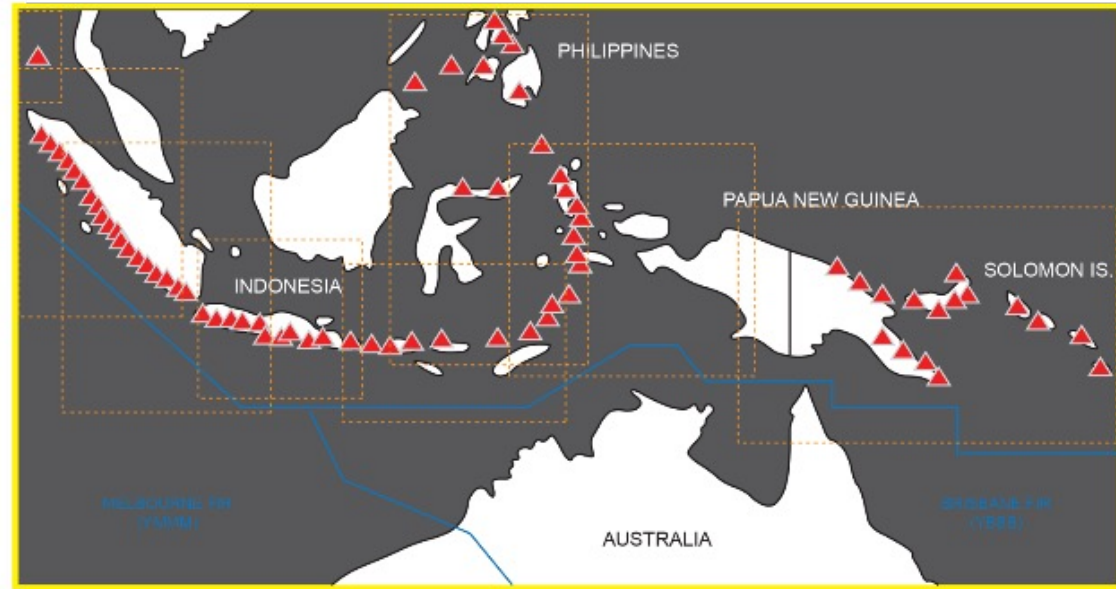
(3) *Create the event with a Severity of 3 hours:* This action should be taken if there is obvious stratospheric injection consistent with a VEI of 4 and/or there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a tsunami has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a high-level Marine Threat or low-level Land Threat.

(4) *Create the event with a Severity of 6 hours:* This action should be taken if there is significant stratospheric injection consistent with a VEI of 5+ and/or there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a catastrophic tsunami has been generated.

Severity	Action
Level 1	The threat area is defined to be within the 1 hour travel time isochrone
Level 3	The threat area is defined to be within the 3 hour travel time isochrone
Level 6	The expanding threat area is defined by the elapsed time since event + 6 hour travel time isochrone

Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre Darwin

1. VAAC Darwin Area of Responsibility



Sub-regions of active volcanism ▲ volcano — Australian FIR boundaries

To its east ,
that's VAAC
Wellington's
Area of
Responsibility

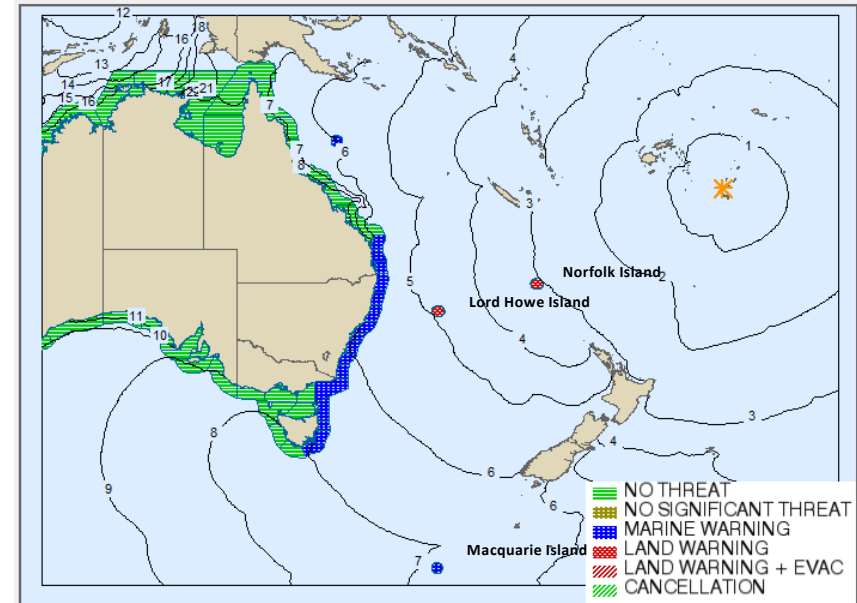
JATWC Actions in the HTHH Event

Time (AEDT)	Elapsed Time (hh:mm)	Key Event: 15 January 2022
15:10	00:00	Explosive volcanic eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano (Tonga)
15:30	00:20	Observations confirm a tsunami was generated at 3:30 PM AEDT at Nuku Alofa.
16:58	01:48	No Threat Bulletin issued with additional text to advise that a tsunami had been generated and that the JATWC would continue to monitor observations. Initial assessment based on 3 hours travel time.
19:36	04:26	Marine Warning for Norfolk Island issued after 50 cm wave observed at the tide gauge.
20:00	04:50	Marine Warning issued for Lord Howe Island based on tide gauge measurements increasing at Norfolk Island.
20:37	05:27	Significant observations in NSW and QLD: (40cm at Twofold Bay at 8:10 PM AEDT; 25 cm at Gold Coast at 7:40 PM AEDT) prompts the issuing of Marine Warnings.
20:58	05:48	Norfolk Island Warning upgraded to Land Threat after wave observations exceed 1.0 m at the tide gauge.
21:00	05:50	Marine Warnings extended to Victoria, Tasmania and Macquarie Island using a 7 hours travel time threat assessment.
21:18	06:08	Lord Howe Island Warning upgraded to Land Threat with evacuation order issued at 10:12 PM AEDT.
10:09 +1	18:59	Land warnings for Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island downgraded to marine.
10:30 to 11:50 +1	19:20 to 20:40	QLD, Macquarie Island, Victoria and Tasmanian marine warnings cancelled.
19:56 to 21:59 +1	28:46 to 30:49	Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island and NSW warnings cancelled.

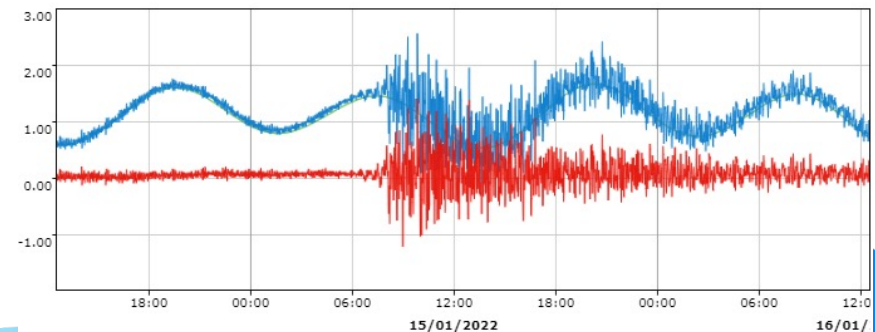
Key Challenges

- Initial detection of the volcanic eruption / tsunami and scale of eruption.
- Lack of event-specific tsunami modelling.
- Lack of a unified sea-level observing tool.

JATWC Tsunami Threat Assessment – Within 7 Hours Travel Time



Norfolk Island – 1.27 m



First Non-Seismic TSP Product issued for Ruang Volcano

- No threat Bulletins for the Indian Ocean and Australia were issued in response to the eruption of Ruang on the 30th of April 2024.
- This is the first non-seismic product issued by a TSP for the Indian Ocean.

Volcano Mount Ruang erupts in Indonesia

Column of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the atmosphere as of April 17 at 0000 GMT, in mg/m²



[Mount Ruang in Indonesia Erupts - Civildaily](#)



[Indonesia volcano: How Ruang eruption could impact weather and climate | CNN](#)

EARTHQUAKE: TALAUD ISLANDS, INDONESIA 18:35 UTC 29 April 2024 Mag N/A

INFORMATION FOR BULLETIN 1.No Threat Bulletin 2109UTC 29 Apr 2024

Exchange Bulletin	Threat Map	Threat Table	Deep Water Wave Amplitude Map	Travel Times Map	NTWC Status Reporting Form	Other Data
IDY68500						
<p>TSUNAMI BULLETIN NUMBER 1 (TYPE-II THREAT ASSESSMENT BULLETIN) IOTHMS TSUNAMI SERVICE PROVIDER AUSTRALIA (JATWC) ISSUED AT 2109 UTC Monday 29 April 2024</p> <p>... NO TSUNAMI THREAT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ...</p> <p>This bulletin applies to areas within and bordering the Indian Ocean. It is issued in support of the UNESCO/IOC Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTHMS).</p> <p>1. TSUNAMI SOURCE INFORMATION IOTHMS-TSP AUSTRALIA has detected a volcanic eruption at Ruang with the following details:</p> <p>Date: 29 Apr 2024 Origin Time: 1835 UTC Latitude: 2.33N Longitude: 125.36E Location: TALAUD ISLANDS, INDONESIA</p> <p>2. EVALUATION Based on a tsunami travel time threat assessment, there is NO THREAT to countries in the Indian Ocean.</p> <p>3. ADVICE This bulletin is being issued as advice. Only national/state/local authorities and disaster management officers have the authority to make decisions regarding the official threat and warning status in their coastal areas and any action to be taken in response.</p> <p>4. UPDATES No further bulletins will be issued by IOTHMS-TSP AUSTRALIA for this event unless other information becomes available.</p> <p>Other IOTHMS-TSPs may issue additional information at: IOTHMS-TSP INDIA: http://www.incois.gov.in/Incois/tsunami/eqevents.jsp IOTHMS-TSP INDONESIA: http://rtsp.bmkg.go.id</p> <p>5. CONTACT INFORMATION IOTHMS-TSP AUSTRALIA Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC) Bureau of Meteorology GPO BOX 1289 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3001 http://reg.bom.gov.au/tsunami/rtsp</p> <p>END OF BULLETIN</p>						

Define Severity for Celestial Impact

Approximate impactor radius	Approximate equivalent earthquake magnitude
10m	M6.5
20m	M7.0
30m	M7.5
60m	M8.0
110m	M8.5
200m	M9.0



Severity Level 3

(i.e., areas under threat being within 3 hours of isochrone)

Severity Level 6

(i.e., areas under threat being within 6 hours of isochrone)



Define Severity for Landslide Events

Severity Level 1, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a **small tsunami** has been generated.

Severity Level 3, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a tsunami has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a **Marine Threat**.

Severity Level 6, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a **catastrophic tsunami** has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a high-level Marine Threat or low-level Land Threat.

Define Severity for Unknown Sources

Severity Level 1, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a tsunami has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a **low-level Marine Threat**

Severity Level 3, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a tsunami has been generated and the impacts are consistent with a **high-level Marine Threat or low-level Land Threat**.

Severity Level 6, if there are reliable observations or reports that indicate a **catastrophic tsunami** has been generated.



Unknown



Future developments

- Improve the source identification
- Improve detection - Near real time sea level alerting
- Improve Modelling
 - Scenario database
 - Real time



THANK YOU

Yuelong Miao

Yuelong.miao@bom.gov.au