

13 January 2026 - TR Workshop Majuro Day 1

Session 8.2

Updates: Communications Flow, Event Staffing
(WSO/NDMO)

Communications Flow & Event Staffing

WFO Guam, WSO Majuro, NDMO

Kamchatka - July 2025: WFO Guam

Full Staff: 25 people

Operations: 24/7; Days, Nights, Weekends, Holidays

Management Team: Meteorologist-in-Charge

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Science and Operations Officer

Earthquake Threat Sources:

Local (Mariana Trench)

Regional (PNG, PI, Japan, Kamchatka)

Distant (Alaska, US West Coast, Hawaii, South America, South Pacific)

Kamchatka - July 2025: WFO Guam

- Kamchatka earthquake occurred at 9:24 am ChST
- Timing was during daytime hours
- WFO Guam was fully staffed for the daytime operations: 2 forecasters on duty and 2 management on duty (WCM at an external meeting with tourism industry)
- WCM immediately briefed Tourism Safety & Security Committee on the earthquake and the likely scenario to unfold
 - S&S Meeting ended promptly with hotel teams returning to respective hotels in Tumon to start taking action for their guests
 - GPD Beach Patrol deployed and began initial actions as a Tsunami Watch was issued with possible upgrade to an Advisory within the hour.
 - Live video call was established with Guam Homeland Security, CNMI Homeland Security and FEMA FITs for Guam & CNMI
 - Live video call later initiated with interests in the Compacts with support from Laura Kong providing detailed brief

Kamchatka - July 2025: WFO Guam

WFO SOO and Operations completed courtesy calls to all WSOs (Majuro, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Palau) to ensure awareness of earthquake and receipt of PTWC bulletins / threat messages

WCM / SOO continued coordination calls with Homeland Security offices on live feed to facilitate questions as they came, due to the rapidly unfolding and time-sensitive situation

WCM enroute from Tumon to WFO Guam while the Watch was upgraded to a Tsunami Advisory (tsunami expected, but small, with strong currents and tidal fluctuations)

Calls initiated with US Embassies, DOD interests & media

Kamchatka - July 2025: WFO Guam

- Wave Arrival to Guam/CNMI was around 3.5 hours
- 7 Press Releases coordinated with Guam & CNMI Homeland Security Offices before wave arrival
- 2 Facebook Live broadcasts from WFO Guam
 - Live #1: 303,000+ Views; 1300+ Shares, 797 Comments (early in event as things rapidly were unfolding; significant public uncertainty, rumors rampant; PTWC limited and developing but still sufficient to communicate and provide public decision support and clarity
 - Live #2: 80,000+ Views; 347 Shares; 202 Comments (after initial set of waves); to provide updated information as the wave passes through the region and to communicate observations to support the Tsunami Advisory issuance
- Completed 25+ media interviews in 3 hours with media from Guam, CNMI, NZ, PH
- WCM: More than 60 cell phone calls in 3 hours
- 8 Coordination calls with USCG Sector Guam
- 3 live Google Meets/Zooms ongoing with regional partners to foster live Q&A due to the quick evolution of the event and many questions/needs across many areas

Kamchatka - July 2025: WFO Guam Communications

- Following initial earthquake notification (CISN, Email, PTWC Courtesy Call), WFO Guam initiated several communications within 10 min:
 - Courtesy calls to WSOs Majuro, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, Palau (WFOG SOP; Ideal action, but not guaranteed (local scenario))
 - Spun up direct communications with Guam/CNMI Homeland Security Offices, FEMA FIT for all-hands brief on earthquake, known status, anticipated changes and coordinated Press Releases to go out in minutes to the Public
 - Post to NWS Guam Facebook page sharing earthquake details, Tsunami Watch and short explanation of what a Watch means and actions for people to take (Stay tuned for forthcoming, updated information from NWS, PTWC, HS)
- As time evolved and subsequent PTWC products issued, produced a Facebook Live broadcast for plain language discussion of situation and provide clarification to the public buzz and angst
 - Live broadcast coordinated with Guam/CNMI Homeland Security PIOs to that they are able to watch for, and respond to, comments within that jurisdiction while NWS could respond live to comments in our domain.

Kamchatka - July 2025: RMI Communications/Staffing/Etc

NDMO / WSO Staffing: Sufficient? Not enough people for the immediate spin-up to communicate to external agencies / organizations, or to respond to phone calls? Public releases? Social media?

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July 30 took place midday on a workday. What if this happened at 3:00 am?

- Is the on-shift person at WSO ready and able to respond immediately?
 - Who does the WSO night shift call first?
 - Does WSO night shift wait for the next package of PTWC information, nearly an hour later to assess and take action?
 - Does the night (or day shift) need extra hands in the WSO?

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- Is the on-shift person at WSO ready and able to respond immediately?
- Is NDMO accessible and ready to engage in very little time?
 - Is NDMO 24/7?
 - Is there a nighttime On Call person?

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- What about communications to outer islands/atolls?
 - Does WSO communicate to, or initiate, communications to outer islands/atolls?
 - Is WSO able to post early information to Social Media to begin public awareness of event and to urge folks to stay tuned to additional official information? (Builds trust)

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- Is NDMO accessible and ready to engage in very little time?
- What about communications to outer islands/atolls?
- What about communication/coordination with other agencies, embassies, off-islanders?
 - Is WSO authorized to speak direct to other agencies/entities aside from NDMO?