

Australia

Scenarios Exercised:

- Sunda Trench (25 Sept)
- Makran Trench (15 Oct)

- Fani Maore Volcano (25 Oct)
- Sumatra Trench (05 Nov)



Australian national IOWave25 exercise was a desktop exercise, performed as a hybrid virtual meeting made up of 3 1 hour break out sessions separated by briefing/debrief sessions.

Exercise Participants

State and national emergency management agencies participated.

- WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
- NT Emergency Services (NTES)
- Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA)
- Australian Federal Police
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- Australian Broadcasting Australia (ABC) Emergency
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Lessons Learnt

Worked Well: Format of the exercise allowed for investigation of the latter stages of an event which delivered recommendations that would have likely been missed by a functional exercise

Areas of improvement: JATWC De-escalation processes for tsunami warnings; In-language messaging (for First Nations and CALD); Understanding of tsunami risk to the Indian Ocean Territories; Managing fatigue of staff/first responders; Incorporation of tide information into tsunami forecasting; Need for disaster funding mechanism for the Indian Ocean Territories; Need for greater inundation mapping to support creation of evacuation zones.

National Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System

The Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC) is the NTWC for Australia and TSP for the IOTWMS. The JATWC detect tsunami events, and issues tsunami bulletins, watches, and warnings. Upon confirmation of a tsunami threat, staff within the state-based BoM teams brief state emergency services. Emergency services are responsible for the issuance of public information, emergency alerts, and evacuation orders. The JATWC maintains up-to-date information on its website, mobile app and 1300 tsunami phone for the public to access. Media organisations are a key channel for alerting the public via coverage of the event and redistribution of emergency information.

National Organisation of Exercise IOWave25

How was it planned?

- Working group stood up through the Australian Tsunami Advisory Group (ATAG).
- The Bureau of Meteorology coordinated planning.

How was it executed?

In a collaborative desktop format online comprised of 3 stages, 3 debriefs, and a hot debrief.

- Stage 1** - hours 0-1 of the tsunami, including initial earthquake notification, first waves at Christmas Island, and activation of staff.
- Stage 2** - hours 1-12, where first waves would have reached most of the Western Australian shoreline. Agencies would be heavily involved in response, evacuation and maintaining situational awareness.
- Stage 3** - hours 12+, including weeks and months after the tsunami. Primarily focused on the cancellation of warnings and recovery.

Following the exercise was an immediate hot debrief. A cold debrief was held 2 weeks later. Participants could also submit feedback and observations via a QR code form.

Organisation Logo(s)

