



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

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IOC/VR/BA/ah
3 November 2022

To: CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)
CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC)
CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair and Vice-Chairpersons

Cc: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO of ICG/CARIBE-EWS Member States
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Regional Organizations cooperating with UNESCO/IOC
NAVAREA Coordinators
Chair IHO/IMO/WMO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee
Director, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center

Subject: Announcement of the CARIBE WAVE 23 Tsunami Exercise in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 23 March 2023

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions at its eighth session (ICG/CARIBE EWS-VIII, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 29 April–1 May 2013) decided to conduct tsunami exercises named CARIBE WAVE on an annual basis leaving each Member State to define its level of participation.

At its Officers Meeting (Virtual, 7 and 9 June 2022), the ICG/CARIBE-EWS recommended that Exercise CARIBE WAVE 23 take place on 23 March 2023 at 14:00:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). The following two hypothetical scenarios will be used:

- A tsunami generated by a magnitude Mw 7.6 earthquake located in the Gulf of Honduras.
- A tsunami generated by the eruption of Mont Pelée Volcano in Martinique.

For CARIBE WAVE 23, each Member State needs to select one scenario and complete the following survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW23_ScenarioSelection) indicating its chosen scenario by 10 March 2023.

The objectives of this exercise are to:

- (1) exercise and evaluate communications between the Regional Tsunami Service Provider and Members States/Territories;

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(2) evaluate the tsunami procedures and programmes within Members States/Territories.

Regular exercising of response plans is critical to maintain readiness for an emergency. It will also be an opportunity to evaluate potential tsunami products for volcanic events. The CARIBE WAVE 23 exercise also supports the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme goal of 100% of communities at risk from tsunamis are prepared and resilient to tsunamis and the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. It is up to every country to decide at what scale to carry out the exercise.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) will issue an initial dummy message on 23 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC and disseminate it over all standard Tsunami Warning Centre broadcast channels. The sending of this dummy message will launch the exercise and will be used to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC). The PTWC will thereafter send by email the simulated tsunami products to officially designated TWFPs and NTWCs according to the chosen scenario. Each TWFP/NTWC will decide if and how to disseminate the messages within their area of responsibility. In the event that a Member State has not selected one of the two proposed scenarios, the organizer will make the selection for them.

The ICG/CARIBE-EWS of UNESCO/IOC, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Caribbean Regional Emergency Management Stakeholders (CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, and EMIZA) are providing the framework for this exercise as a means for emergency responders throughout the Caribbean and adjacent regions to test and update tsunami response plans. The participant handbook with details of the exercise and all relevant information will be made available online at <http://caribewave.org>.

For CARIBE WAVE 23, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS decided to continue using TsunamiZone (<http://tsunamizone.org/caribbean>) for the registration of the participants to the exercise. Registered participants will be able to see other participants as from January 2023. Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) and exercise coordinators are encouraged to promote this registration system. In 2022, over 400,000 participants to CARIBE WAVE 22 registered through this platform.

Online seminars for orienting participants on the exercise in English, Spanish and French languages are scheduled on 17–19 January and 21–23 February 2023. The registration links to the seminars will be made available at <https://caribewave.org>. As an additional planning tool, the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) has produced videos on the PTWC products and staging for the Caribbean (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8956022>, request password to itic.tsunami@noaa.gov), as well as a multi-lingual promotional video on CARIBE WAVE (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9334456>). For further information on the exercise please contact Dr Elizabeth A. Vanacore, Chair of the Task Team CARIBE WAVE 23 (elizabeth.vanacore@upr.edu), Ms Alison Brome, Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (a.brome@unesco.org), Ms Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office (christa.vonh@noaa.gov), and/or the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Technical Secretary, Mr Bernardo Aliaga (b.aliaga@unesco.org). You are also encouraged to disseminate copies of this letter to appropriate organizations and authorities within your country.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary