



# NEAMWave Tsunami Exercise INFORMATION BRIEF

This information brief aims to give a general understanding of the NEAMWave exercise's scope, description, and participation requirements. It also identifies some potential benefits of the exercise.

The purpose of the exercise is to practice emergency response procedures in order to guarantee that crucial communication links operate seamlessly and that responding agencies and personnel are aware of their respective duties during an actual event. Aiming to maintain a high state of operational readiness of National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and Civil Protection Agencies (CPAs).

The NEAMWave exercise is designed to evaluate the national and local warning dissemination and response mechanisms put in place by Member State Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) upon receipt of a tsunami warning message from their Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and Connected Seas (NEAM) region.



National emergency managers and civil protection agencies, both at national and local levels are encouraged to actively participate in the Exercise, in cooperation with the respective Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), NTWC, and the European Commission Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC) by:



Receiving the alert messages from the respective TWFP/NTWC



Simulating the consequent operational actions, if possible

# HOW DOES IT WORK?

The exercise to this end is conducted based on tsunami scenarios of seismic origin that are provided by the accredited Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs).

In order to attract as many participants as possible, more than one scenarios are implemented in each exercise to achieve greater geographical coverage of the NEAM region. The scenarios are usually designed and conducted by one or more TSPs:

## SINGLE SCENARIO

One scenario designed and conducted by one TSP.

## JOINT SCENARIO

Common scenario conducted in collaboration between two or more TSPs.



During the joint scenario, the TSPs will directly communicate their tsunami exercise messages to the subscribers participating in the exercise.

The NEAMWave exercise consists of three phases (Phase A, Phase B, and Phase C):

## Phase A TSPs-Alert

Simulation of the first step of the early warning process in case of a tsunamigenic seismic event, consisting of the detection of the event and the timely provision of the related alert messages by the responsible scientific institutions (the so-called Tsunami Service Providers - TSPs) to the tsunami service recipients.

The simulation continues at the national level, with the early warning provided by the TWFPs to the national CPAs and consequently, the simulation of the relative operational actions.

## Phase B CPAs - Early Action

## Phase C CPAs Requesting International Assistance

According to the scenario, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission will receive one or more requests for international assistance from one or more affected countries. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) will be activated by the assistance request. This indicates that the CPAs taking part in the chosen scenario will also have the option to continue the simulation and send a request to ERCC for international help.

The ERCC will then conduct a Command Post Exercise to test the procedure for providing international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) to those affected countries that request it.

TSPs with a proven capability of disseminating messages using email, fax, and GTS are participating in Phase A (early warning) of NEAMWave exercises, providing Tsunami Warning Messages.

## PARTICIPATION

TWFPs, in cooperation with national and local CPAs, are invited to participate in one of the following exercise levels:

1. Orientation Exercise
2. Command Post (Drill) Exercise
3. Table-Top Exercise
4. Functional Exercise
5. Full-Scale Exercise

The Exercise Team and IOC Secretariat will inform participants when and how to subscribe to the planned exercise. The Team will also provide detailed documents to prepare for the exercise (i.e., Exercise manual).



In the case of a real event occurring during the exercise, TSPs and TWFPs/CPAs will give full priority to the event and a decision will be made by TSPs whether to continue or cease their participation in the exercise.

## BENEFITS



European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (UCPM) of ERCC participating actively by taking part in a CPAs-dedicated Phase C of the exercise.

Evaluating the CPA's ability to respond to a local or regional tsunami emergency.



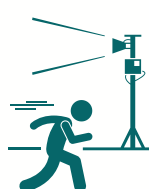
Exercising parts of the response, or simulating an entire end-to-end warning and evacuation scenario

Testing communication policies, reviewing agency Standard Operating Procedures, and promoting emergency preparedness.



Contributing to fulfilling the indicator on Preparedness concerning the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

Maintaining operational readiness of response agencies, staff familiarity and efficiency for the real event.



Tsunami exercises and drills are excellent ways in which to increase tsunami preparedness and awareness of coastal communities.

### Further information

Visit our websites:  
[NEAMTWS Guiding Documents and Forms](#)  
[NEAMWave exercises](#)

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