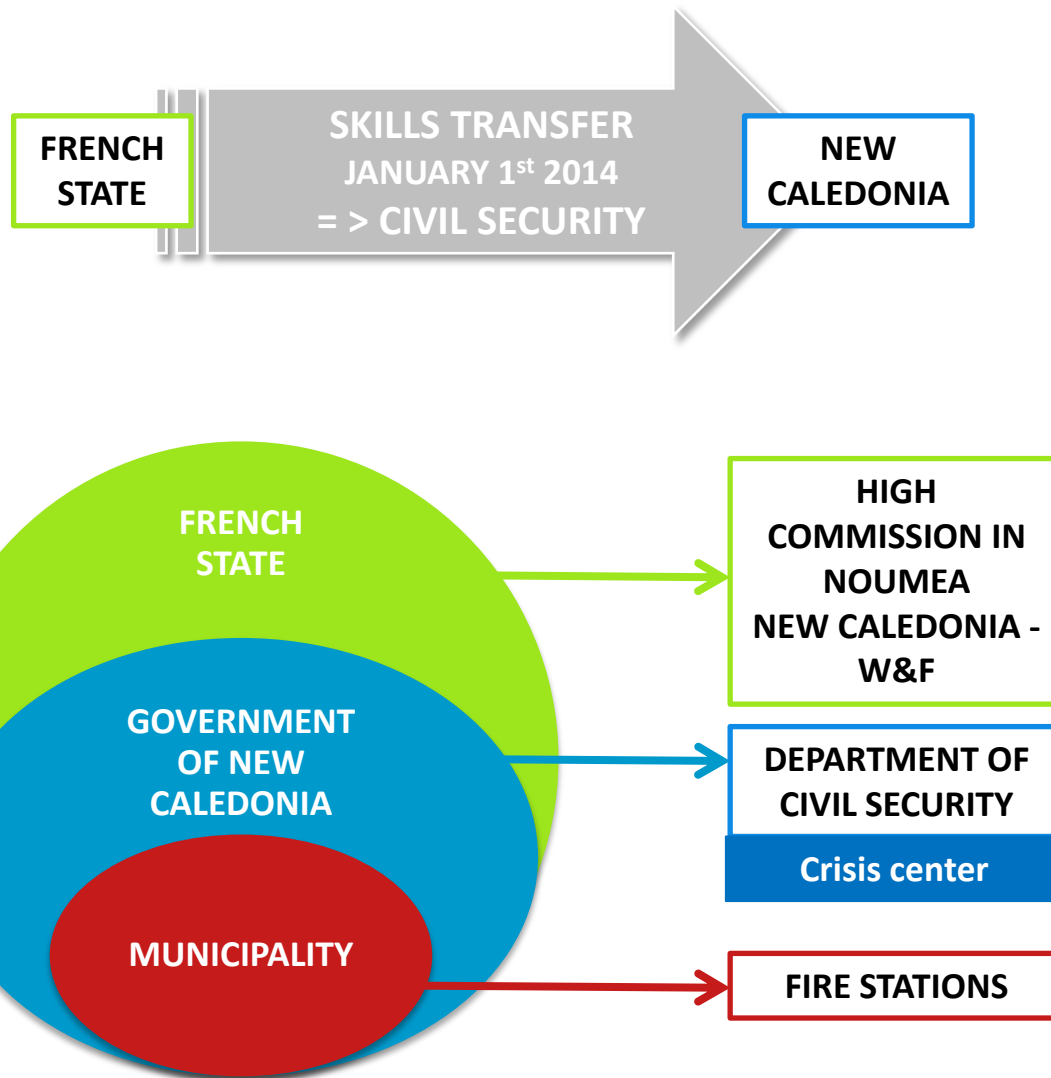


POST-EVENT BRIEF – 15 JAN 2022 TONGA & ACTION PLAN



CIVIL SECURITY IN NEW CALEDONIA



➤ In charge of risks management -> duty officer on-call round the clock (H24)

➤ Major natural risks in New Caledonia :

- Cyclones and hazardous weather events
- Tsunamis
- Bush fires



➤ In case of a major event, activation of the crisis center

EVENT TIMELINE (1)

Time (UTC)	Event
04:10	Beginning of the eruption
04:27	Explosion reported on social medias
05:25	Tonga tide gauge observed
05:27	<i>Email of the PTWC n° 7 - "head's up"</i> Warning! This email has not been received by the department of civil security -> only on Sunday January 16 2022 at 07h21 (local time)
05:30	<i>Tsunami expert call to civil security</i> Anomalous sea level movements are expected in New Caledonia: East Coast, Pines Island and Loyalty Islands
06:00	<i>Activation of the crisis center</i>
06:01	Duty officer at the crisis center ask the tsunami expert if W&F will be impacted by the event -> the expert answers yes
06:04	Duty officer at the high commission in Noumea is notified of the risk (for W&F)
06:31	<i>MRCC is notified of the risk</i> -> dissemination of prevention messages on the marine VHF to sea users
06:35	<i>First SMS message to civil security responders</i> "Following eruption in Tonga, anomalous sea level movements are expected on East coast, Loyalty Islands around 19:00." (local time)

EVENT TIMELINE (2)

Time (UTC)	Event
06:41	Tsunami expert informs the duty officer at the high commission in Noumea that W&F will be impacted within the next quarter of an hour and that monitoring of the ashes projected by the volcano will have to be monitored
06:54-07:21	Contact by phone with all the fire stations concerned by the event
07:20	<i>First set of movements at Lifou tide gauge observed</i> Movements visible since 17:15 (06:15 UTC) - Direct propagation speed =320 m/s
07:21	<i>Second SMS message to civil security responders</i> "Anomalous sea level movements happening now east coast and Loyalty Islands."
07:23	<i>Press release</i> "Following eruption in Tonga, anomalous sea level movements are expected on East coast, Loyalty Islands around 18:00. No flooding expected, so no evacuation needed but stay away from the beach."
08:00	<i>Second set of movements observed at Lifou</i> Movements visible since 18:40 (07:40 UTC)
08:22	<i>Third SMS message to civil security responders</i> "Main event has passed, but movements can persist for hours, stay away from the shore."
09:00	<i>Crisis center disabled</i>
09:00-13:00	Active watch by duty officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls on the duty phone of the various actors of civil security for the follow-up of the event - Mail from Météo France about the ash clouds generated by the eruption, and their probable impact on Monday January 16

ACTION PLAN

- Duty officers of the crisis center made aware of the tsunami risk, especially caused by volcanic eruption, by the tsunami experts (IRD/SPC)
 - crisis management different from the tsunami caused by seismic event (81%)
 - adaptation of the procedure to the new process established by the PTWC for this specific event

Main difficulty on this event : no SMS and no email warning messages as usually

- See if it is possible :
 - to have access to the data of the DARTs in New Zealand
 - to benefit from the expertise of on-call staff from France (CENALT) or French Polynesia (LDG) -> indeed no on-call staff in New Caledonia
 - to have in the future 1 or 2 municipalities of New Caledonia involved in the « Tsunami Ready » program
 - to have access to the data of Wellington VAAC concerning the ash clouds, through the New Caledonian departments of Meteorology and Civil Aviation (an airplane was in fact diverted to Australia following the ash cloud)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

