**NATIONAL REPORT FOR SAINT LUCIA**

Saint Lucia receives the information and threat messages from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii which monitors for earthquakes and subsequent tsunami events in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. If a tsunami threat is generated, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issues tsunami threat messages to the Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) MET Services who is led by the officer in Charge Venantius Descartes. His email address is vdescartes@gosl.gov.lc and can be reached at 758 721 7157. The office then forwards the tsunami message to the National Contact Point, NEMO as quickly as possible (presently within 15 to 20 minutes of an earthquake with a magnitude suggesting the potential for a tsunami threat). The person in charge of the TNC is the Director of the NEMO Maria Medard located in Bisee Castries ([director@nemo.gov.lc](mailto:director@nemo.gov.lc)) and can be contacted at757 461 7623.

Once the Tsunami Warning Focal Point [TWFP] receives the bulletin they will follow preplanned procedures according to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The Officer in Charge **must immediately** assess bulletin information, determine whether or not their country will be affected by a tsunami, and if so, identify the vulnerable locations and report this to the National Contact Point, NEMO.

Local Tsunami [15 min – 1hour]

1. Once a tsunami wave has been detected that may affect the Saint Lucian coast, the Director Met, or his designee as the Warning Focal Point will immediately activate the Emergency Alert System advising the targeted areas of the need to evacuate.
2. Only after the Emergency Alert System has been activated and the targeted area notified of the need to evacuate shall the Director NEMO as the Contact Point shall be notified. *(Currently, because of technical contraints at the Met Services, the Director of NEMO is immediately notified to issue alerts)*
3. The Director NEMO upon being notified of a possible tsunami shall notify the Prime Minster and the National Response Mechanism.

Regional and Distant [Tele] Tsunami [1 – 3 hours and more]

1. Once a tsunami wave has been detected that may affect the Saint Lucian coast, the Director - Saint Lucia Met Service will activate the Emergency Alert System advising the need to evacuate the beach area.
2. Based on the bulleting, the Director Met [or alternate] together with the Director NEMO [or alternate] will determine the following:
   1. Which area to evacuate
   2. When to evacuate
   3. When not to evacuate and only increase readiness
   4. What to tell the public when there is no evacuation
3. The Operations Office of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force and Saint Lucia Fire Service will be notified to contact the law enforcement and fire service closest to the beach front to respond to the beach and announce the evacuation of the beach.
4. The NEMO Secretariat will contact the District Disaster Committees in the evacuation zone. When in place -- The Saint Lucia Met Service will active the relevant sirens and cell broadcasting systems. *(There is no cell broadcasting at this time. The sirens are activated by NEMO)*
5. In case of an actual event is observed of severe water draw-back by first responders, an evacuation order may be given by the Officer in Charge. The Saint Lucia Met *(in reality it is NEMO)* when in place -- will active the relevant sirens and cell broadcasting systems.
6. Once an evacuation becomes necessary, the Government Information Service will broadcast warning and evacuation instructions through the local media outlets. *(NEMO also uses all available means to alert the public of the warning)*

The NEMO is the organization that acts on information provided by the PTWC. Tsunami alerts are disseminated in St Lucia via the radio, television, SMS, siren, town crier, CAP CAP and social media to all affected persons. Once the MET office has announced the end of the threat, NEMO will issue all clear when appropriate. We still await information from the MET office with regards to the National sea level network, tsunami occurrences and the plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation systems improvements.

On March 23rd, 2023 Saint Lucia participated in the annual CARIBE WAVEtsunami simulation exercise. The National Emergency Management Organization [NEMO] was the coordinating agency for this year's CARIBE WAVEexercise. The scenario chosen was a tsunami created by a volcanic eruption of Mount Pelé in Martinique. The main purpose of the exercise was to test Saint Lucia's alert system and communication processes to identify opportunities and areas for improvement.

Saint Lucia before did not have an identifiable tsunami sound. One was chosen which was circulated to the radio and television stations. More publicity needs to be done with the sound in the various communities to have people familiar with it.

The Committee during a 2 week period took on a rigorous media campaign, radio and television interviews, social media, SMS, Cap.Cap, Email and press releases. The Town Crier was not used because of the unavailability of funds.

An After Action Review (AAR) of the exercise was done afterward with Committee members and key agencies to examine existing strengths and weaknesses and identify areas to be improved and the way forward. The way recommendations were

The recommendations/way forward included:

* Need for greater awareness of the public regarding community evacuation plans
* Servicing and repositioned of alert sirens and horns
* Greater Public Relation and sensitization
* Financial allocations for maintenance of the alert systems
* Improved communication among the key stakeholders (Police, fire)
* Increased in the number of repeaters
* Improved protocols for dissemination of relevant information by the telecommunication providers

Saint Lucia is currently implementing the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme with the support from ITIC-CAR and funding from the USAID.

ITIC-CAR has approved the undertaking of the tsunami hazard assessment through contractor Carlos Rodriguez (Global Matrix) that has completed the ground truthing works in the coastal area across the island. This will aid St Lucia in preparing the evacuation maps and signage to make St Lucia Tsunami Ready by December 2024.