

**IOC Circular Letter No 3018**  
English only

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13 December 2024

- 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
- C.c. : 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  
IOC Officers  
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  
Director, Central America Tsunami Advisory Center

**Subject: Announcement of the CARIBE WAVE 25 Tsunami Exercise  
in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions on 20 March 2025**

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 17th Session, (Managua, Nicaragua; 6–9 May 2024), the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, recommended that Exercise CARIBE WAVE 25 take place on 20 March 2025 at 15:00:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) using the following two hypothetical scenarios:

- A tsunami generated by a magnitude 8.0 earthquake located along the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden Fault Zone (EPGFZ) for Jamaica scenario.
- A tsunami generated by a magnitude 8.5 earthquake located approximately 270 km off the Portugal coast.

For CARIBE WAVE 25, each Member State needs to select one scenario and complete the following online survey ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW25\\_ScenarioSelection](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CW25_ScenarioSelection)) indicating its chosen scenario by 6 March 2025.

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The objective of this exercise is: (i) to exercise and evaluate communications between Regional Tsunami Service Providers and Member States/Territories; and (ii) to evaluate tsunami procedures and programmes within Member States/Territories. Regular exercises of response plans are essential to remain prepared for an emergency situation. The CARIBE WAVE 25 exercise also supports the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme goal of 100% of tsunami-prone communities being prepared and resilient to tsunamis, as well as the implementation of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme. It is up to each country to decide on the scale at which it wishes to carry out the exercise.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) and the Nicaragua Central America Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) will issue an initial dummy message on 20 March 2025 at 15:00 UTC, each in charge of one of the two proposed scenarios, and will disseminate it on all the standard broadcast channels of their Tsunami Warning Centres. This dummy message will be issued to test communications with Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC), and to launch the exercise. PTWC and CATAC will then 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 cases where a Member State does not inform of its choice of scenario, the organizers will choose the scenario for that Member States.

The UNESCO-IOC ICG/CARIBE-EWS, 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 to enable emergency responders in the Caribbean and adjacent regions to test and update tsunami response plans. The 'Participant's Handbook' containing details of the exercise will be available online at <http://caribewave.org>. Further information about the exercise will also be published on this link in due course.

For CARIBE WAVE 25, the ICG/CARIBE-EWS has decided to continue using TsunamiZone for registration (<http://tsunamizone.org/caribbean>). Participants will be able to register and see other participants. Emergency Management Organizations (EMOs) and exercise coordinators are encouraged to promote this registration system. For CARIBE WAVE 24, over 475,000 participants registered via this platform.

Webinars to orient participants on the exercise are scheduled in English, Spanish and French languages for 21–23 January and 25–27 February 2025. Detailed information will be available on the website. As an additional planning tool, the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) has produced videos on the PTWC products tailored to the Caribbean (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8956022>, request password to [itic.tsunami@noaa.gov](mailto:itic.tsunami@noaa.gov)), as well as a promotional video on CARIBE WAVE (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9334456>).

For further information on the exercise, please contact Mr Antonio Aguilar, Chair of the Task Team CARIBE WAVE 25 ([antoniodesastres@gmail.com](mailto:antoniodesastres@gmail.com)), Ms Alison Brome, Caribbean Tsunami Information Center ([a.brome@unesco.org](mailto:a.brome@unesco.org)), Ms Christa G. von Hillebrandt-Andrade, International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office ([christa.vonh@noaa.gov](mailto:christa.vonh@noaa.gov)), and/or the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Technical Secretary, Dr Ocal Necmioglu ([o.necmioglu@unesco.org](mailto:o.necmioglu@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]*

Vidar Helgesen  
Executive Secretary