

Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan



December 1, 2019

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Division of Emergency Management



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2. Introduction

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office has prepared this *Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan*, which sets forth the general policies and procedures for Whatcom County, cities and towns, supporting agencies and organizations to protect and ensure public safety, reduce damage to property, and avoid and limit economic disruption before, during, and after a tsunami.

This plan complies with existing federal, state and local statutes and is consistent with the capabilities and resources of the various agencies and organizations involved. All individuals, agencies, and organizations assuming responsibility under this plan have developed and shall continue to improve upon detailed procedures necessary to carry out their respective responsibilities, describing how response and recovery functions shall be accomplished. In addition, this plan shall be revised and updated, and related training and exercise programs undertaken, as indicated herein.

The term "Whatcom County" as used in this plan encompasses the entire geographical boundary including the 7 incorporated cities, the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Indian Tribe.

The Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan is a hazard specific plan that establishes a comprehensive framework for management of emergency events associated with tsunami activity affecting Whatcom County shorelines.

This plan assigns roles and delegates responsibilities to Whatcom County departments and other agencies and organizations that will provide support during activation of this plan. Agreement to this plan represents a major commitment by the leadership of these agencies and organizations to:

1. Support the Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan concept of operations and carry out the roles and responsibilities assigned in the plan to ensure the orderly, timely delivery of assistance;
2. Make maximum use of existing authorities, organizations, resources, systems, and programs to reduce emergency relief costs;
3. Form partnerships with counterparts in municipal, adjacent county, and state emergency management offices, voluntary emergency relief organizations, and the private sector to take advantage of all existing resources; and
4. Continue to develop and refine planning, exercise, and training activities specific to assigned roles and responsibilities and consistent with plan development and maintenance procedures identified herein to maintain necessary operational capabilities.



3. OVERVIEW

Whatcom County has over 130 miles of marine shoreline made up of urban, urban resort, urban conservancy, residential, rural, resource, conservancy, natural tribal, Cherry Point Management Area, and Aquatic areas. Additionally, our coastline and coastal waters are prime tourist destinations. While there is little, if any, physical evidence of tsunamis having occurred in Whatcom County, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration modeling does show that our coast might be affected by a tsunami. Therefore, the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office has created this Whatcom County Tsunami Action Plan.

The purpose of this plan is to define the actions Whatcom County Government, local governments, and Special Districts would take in the event of a tsunami or tsunami threat and provides direction to facilitate and coordinate the management of actions for a tsunami or tsunami threat by:

1. Identifying and addressing planning and staff training needs prior to a tsunami.
2. Mitigating against potential threats to lives, health, safety, welfare, and economic and environmental well-being of a potentially impacted area
3. Defining the response requirements for a tsunami.
4. Expedite recovery efforts in the impacted area



4. Background

There is no physical evidence of tsunami waves reaching Whatcom County shores; however, computer models show there are conditions where tsunami waves could reach Whatcom County's shoreline. For example, a Cascadia Subduction Zone rupture could set in motion a series of tsunami waves capable of pushing through the Strait of Juan de Fuca, up the Strait of Georgia eventually reaching Whatcom County. Other fault-lines in or near Whatcom County are also capable of generating tsunami waves. Surface or subsurface (underwater) landslides could also cause a rapid displacement of water leading to tsunami waves which could impact the Whatcom County. The effects of a tsunami may include one or all of the following:

1. Inundation of land areas at or slightly above sea level
2. Multiple tsunami waves separated by hours (known as a tsunami train)
3. Debris pushed inland and deposited as well as debris carried out to sea when the wave recedes.
4. Strong and unpredictable inland sea currents, eddies and whirlpools.
5. Turning floating objects such as boats, propane tanks, etc. into battering rams.
6. Hazardous materials released when pipes of storage tanks are ruptured or household hazardous material released following inundation.
7. Spontaneous fires which can ride on top of a tsunami wave resulting in additional damage.

4.1. Shoreline Area Vulnerability

The following areas are susceptible to tsunami waves due to low elevation and proximity to the ocean:

1. Bellingham Bay shorelines including the Bellingham waterfront and Port of Bellingham facilities, marinas and tenants.
2. Birch Bay including Birch Bay State Park and Terrell Creek
3. Birch Bay Village
4. Chuckanut Bay
5. Lummi Island
6. Point Roberts Shorelines
7. Sandy Point
8. Semiahmoo Bay shorelines including the Blaine waterfront and Port of Bellingham facilities, marinas and tenants, the Semiahmoo Spit, Drayton Harbor, Dakota and California Creeks.
9. The Lummi Nation
10. The Nooksack River Delta



4.2. Assumptions

1. A tsunami wave can be generated with little or no warning;
2. External sources of tsunami information may be the best source of distant tsunami's but may not be able to provide warning for near shore events;
3. Responders are limited in their ability to evacuate communities.



5. Key Stakeholders

Whatcom County and the local jurisdictions are dependent upon an effective detection and warning system that begins at the federal level descending to the state and then local level. As a result, the breadth of stakeholder involvement is complex. The following organizations represent the primary group of stakeholders that would be actively preparing for, responding to, or recovering from any tsunami threat.

United States Federal

1. Bureau of Indian Affairs
2. Department of Homeland Security
3. Fish & Wildlife Service
4. National Weather Service
5. United States Environmental Protection Agency
6. United States Geological Survey

Native American Tribes

1. Lummi Nation
2. Nooksack Indian Tribe

Washington State

1. Washington State Department of Ecology
2. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
3. Washington State Department of Natural Resources
4. Washington State Department of Transportation
5. Washington State Emergency Management Division, Military Department
6. Washington State Parks
7. Washington State Patrol

Whatcom County

1. Birch Bay Water & Sewer District
2. North Whatcom Fire and Rescue Service
3. Prospect Fire Dispatch
4. United States Customs and Border Protection 780 Dispatch
5. Whatcom County Fire District #11
6. Whatcom County Fire District #17
7. Whatcom County Fire District #5
8. Whatcom County Fire District #7
9. Whatcom County Health Department
10. Whatcom County Parks and Recreation
11. Whatcom County Public Works
12. Whatcom County Search and Rescue
13. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
14. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary Communication Service



15. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
16. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management
17. Whatcom Transit Authority
18. What-Comm 911

Private Sector

1. Bellingham Cold Storage
2. Bellingham Yacht Club
3. Bellwether Hotel
4. Birch Bay Village Community Club, Inc.
5. BP Cherry Point
6. BP Pipelines
7. Cascade Natural Gas
8. Phillips 66
9. Puget Sound Energy
10. Sandy Point Improvement Company
11. Semiahmoo Homeowners Association
12. Semiahmoo Marina
13. Semiahmoo Resort

Canada

1. Canadian Border Services Agency
2. Delta Fire & Emergency Services
3. Emergency Management British Columbia
4. Natural Resources Canada/Geological Survey of Canada
5. Public Safety Canada
6. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
7. Semiahmoo First Nation
8. White Rock Fire Rescue

City of Blaine

1. Blaine Police Department
2. City of Blaine Public Works
3. Port of Bellingham

City of Bellingham

1. Bellingham Police Department
2. City of Bellingham Fire Department
3. City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management
4. City of Bellingham Public Works
5. Port of Bellingham

News Media, Social Media and Community Outreach

1. AlertSense
2. Bellingham Herald
3. Facebook
4. KGMI Radio



5. My Ferndale News
6. The Northern Light
7. Twitter
8. Whatcom County Website and Emergency Alerts
9. Whatcom Unified Website



6. Tsunami Statements

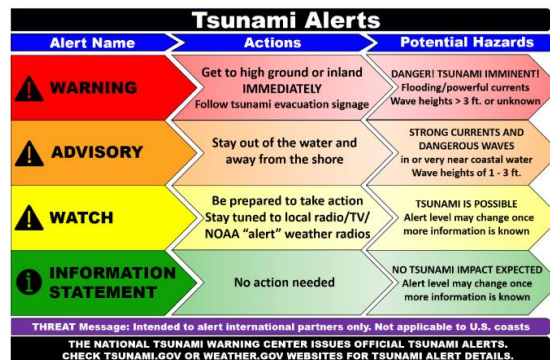
Whatcom County relies on external sources for tsunami statements including the US Geological Survey, National Tsunami Warning Center, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency and the Washington State Emergency Operations Center.

6.1. United States Geological Survey

1. The United States Geological Survey conducts worldwide seismic activity monitoring.
2. The United States Geological Survey provides seismic activity information to the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska.

6.2. National Tsunami Warning Center

1. The National Tsunami Warning Center will broadcast pertinent tsunami alerts based on scientific information. Alerts come in the form of Information Statements, Watches, Advisories, or Warnings. The following diagram shows the different level and anticipated conditions associated with the tsunami.



2. Several communication modes are used to notify government officials and the public of tsunami activity:
 - a. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Weather Radio
 - b. Computer
 - c. Phone (Cellular and Land Line)

6.3. Washington State Emergency Operations Center

1. Upon receiving a tsunami warning, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center will activate all of the All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System sirens along the Washington coastline.
2. Schedule and conduct tsunami teleconferences if tsunami wave arrival time permits.



7. EVACUATION INFORMATION

7.1. Evacuations

When a tsunami warning has been issued, people and organizations located within a tsunami hazard area will be notified to immediately evacuate the area. County officials will also call for an evacuation under a tsunami warning and may call for evacuation conditions other than a tsunami warning; a tsunami advisory for example.

Factors affecting a successful evacuation include:

1. Road Conditions: Following an earthquake, roads could be impassable due to debris on roads, liquefaction, backed up traffic, or other road condition which prevent driving out of the risk area. People must evacuate using any possible route.
2. Health Considerations: Mobility or health condition(s) can affect how rapidly one can evacuate a risk area.
3. Time of Day: Evacuation at night may pose additional risks due to lighting, debris or obstacles such as downed trees or wires.
4. Seasonal Considerations: Greater numbers of people should be expected during the summer or during holiday periods.

7.2. Evacuation Route Signage

In Whatcom County, "Tsunami Evacuation Route" signs have been placed alongside roads indicating roads that, if not damaged by an earthquake, may lead out of a tsunami inundation area. For example, an earthquake can create debris, cause land subduction or liquefaction which could nullify the use of a pre-identified evacuation route. Evacuees must be prepared walk to higher ground.

7.3. Evacuation for Marinas, Boaters and Live Aboards

Whatcom County has five major marinas as well as numerous commercial docks, piers and anchorages. In most cases the ability to reach safe water depths in the Strait of Georgia is questionable at best within the warning time of a distant tsunami approaching Whatcom County, and unachievable for a near shore tsunami. While the decision to attempt to leave harbor and try to get to deep water rests with the vessels Captain, **the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office does not recommend, suggest or plan for any evacuation by water under any condition or situation. All Marina personnel, boaters and live aboards should immediately leave their vessel and proceed to high ground and not return until the "All Clear" signal is given.**

For those vessels that may already be underway and aware a tsunami warning has been issued for the area they are in, the Captain will have to make the decision concerning what to do. This decision will be based on a variety of factors, but if deep water cannot be reached within 30



minutes, consideration should be given to anchoring and going ashore or beaching the vessel and going ashore. Attempting to ride out a tsunami in shallow waters such as Bellingham Bay, Semiahmoo Bay, or Boundary Bay is not recommended and may result in destruction of the vessel and endangering all persons on board. Declaring a May Day may not result in any response by Coast Guard or other response organizations. Preservation of human life is the highest priority.

7.4. Road Block Locations

In order to prevent entry / re-entry into tsunami threatened areas, the following road block locations have been established to limit ingress into a threat area, but in no way should prevent egress from an area. These locations are to be staffed by any public safety agency available at the local, state, or federal level.

7.4.1. Point Roberts

Point Roberts is accessible through the US / Canadian border. The southbound entry from Canada into the United States should be blocked either at the Port of Entry, or immediately south of the Port of Entry.

7.4.2. City of Blaine

There are three access points that need to be blocked for ingress in the City of Blaine's low laying water front areas:

1. East bound traffic at the 4-way corner of Semiahmoo Parkway, Semiahmoo Drive and Drayton Harbor Road.
2. Peace Arch Park
3. Southbound traffic at Bell Road and Peace Portal Drive.
4. West bound traffic at the roundabout at Marine Drive and Peace Portal Drive.

7.4.3. Birch Bay

There are five access points that need to be blocked for ingress into Birch Bay's low laying water front areas:

1. Southbound traffic at Shintaffer Road and Anderson Road.
2. Southbound traffic at Harborview Road and Birch Bay Lynden Road.
3. Westbound traffic at Alderson Road and Blaine Road.
4. Westbound traffic at Bay Road and Blaine Road.
5. Westbound traffic at the roundabout at Grandview Road and Blaine Road.

7.4.4. Sandy Point

There is one access point that needs to be blocked for ingress into Sandy Point's low laying water front areas:

1. Westbound and Southbound traffic at Slater Road and Lake Terrell Road.



7.4.5. Lummi Nation

There are 5 access points that need to be blocked for ingress into the Lummi Nation's low laying water front areas:

1. Southbound traffic at Hoff Road at Rural Avenue.
2. Westbound traffic at Hoff Road and Bayon Road.
3. Westbound traffic at Hoff Road and Country Lane.
4. Westbound traffic at Hoff Road and Marine Drive.
5. Westbound traffic at the Nooksack Bridge on Slater Road.

7.4.6. Locust Beach

There is one access points that need to be blocked for ingress into Locust Beach:

1. Southbound Traffic at Locust Avenue and Marine Drive

7.4.7. City of Bellingham

There are twelve access points that need to be blocked for ingress into Bellingham's low laying water front areas:

2. All northbound traffic at 4th and Donovan Avenue
3. All northbound traffic at 6th and Donovan Avenue
4. All traffic between C Street and West Champion Street
5. All traffic between the intersection of East Maple and Cornwall Avenue and the roundabout at Wharf Street and North State Street
6. All westbound traffic at 21st and Arroyo Lane
7. All westbound traffic at 8th and Harris Avenue
8. All westbound traffic at Bay Street and West Chestnut Street
9. All westbound traffic at Bayview Drive and 10th Street
10. Southbound traffic at C Street at West Holly Street
11. Southbound traffic at F Street at West Holly Street
1. Southbound traffic at Seaview Avenue and Eldridge Avenue
2. Southbound traffic at Squalicum Way and West Street

7.4.8. Chuckanut Drive

There are three access points that need to be blocked for ingress into Chuckanut Drive's low laying water front areas:

1. Larrabee State Park at Chuckanut Road
2. Westbound traffic at Cove Road and Pleasant Bay Road
3. Westbound traffic at Yacht Club Road and Chuckanut Drive



8. ASSEMBLY AREAS

8.1. Assembly Area Locations

Whatcom County will continue to evaluate current and proposed Assembly Areas and make changes when necessary. The following list represents current Whatcom County Assembly locations:

8.1.1. *Blaine*

1. Blaine High School: 1055 "H" Street, Blaine, WA

8.1.2. *Birch Bay*

1. American Legion Hall: 4580 Legion Drive, Blaine, WA
2. Bay Horizon Park: 7506 Gemini Street, Blaine, WA
3. Birch Bay Bible Community Church: 4460 Bay Road, Blaine, WA

8.1.3. *Sandy Point*

1. Neptune Circle
2. Along a line facing north on Elder Road and facing west on Unick Road

8.1.4. *Lummi Nation*

1. Little Bear Creek Assisted Living Center: 2400 Lummi View Dr. Bellingham, WA
2. Lummi Day Care Center: 2561 Scott Road, Bellingham, WA
3. Lummi Indian Business Council Tribal Center: 2565 Kwina Road, Bellingham, WA
4. Northwest Indian College: 2522 Kwina Road, Bellingham, WA
5. Parked single file facing north on Elder Road single file facing west on Unick Road
6. Smokehouse Road: Parked either side of road center of peninsula
7. Wex 'liem Community Building: 2100 Lummi View Dr., Bellingham, WA

8.1.5. *Lummi Island*

1. 2215 N Nugent Rd, Lummi Island
2. Beach School: 3786 Centerview Rd, Lummi Island, WA 98262



9. All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System Testing

9.1. Purpose

A testing schedule was developed to ensure the Alert Broadcast Warning System can be activated by multiple agencies using various methods when an emergency situation exists. System testing alternates on a monthly basis between Washington State and local government agencies unless the local agency has delegated the responsibility to the state which can be done for individual sirens or the entire jurisdiction. Washington State is responsible for activating the system on the even months (e.g. February, April, etc.) while local jurisdictions are responsible for the odd months (e.g. January, March, etc.). Within Whatcom County, testing is shared among several agencies including the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, Whatcom County Dispatch (PROSPECT), and the fire or law enforcement authority of the jurisdiction in which the siren resides.

10. Tsunami Monitoring and Training Requirements

10.1. Tsunami Monitoring

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officers will subscribe to the following electronic sites as they represent source data for geological activity associated with tsunami events. The following applications will be loaded on duty officer phones.

1. United States Geological Survey Earthquake monitoring
2. National Tsunami Warning Center

10.2. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer Training

To ensure duty officers are able to rapidly and accurately interpret tsunami alerts issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center, expeditiously create tsunami messages for traditional and social media outlets, organize and conduct Whatcom County Tsunami Teleconferences, the following quarterly training schedule will be effective:

1. Quarter 1: Tsunami Detection and National Tsunami Warning Center Alerts
2. Quarter 2: Alert Sense: Tsunami Working Group, Pre-Event Messages, etc.
3. Quarter 3: All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System Activation and Testing
4. Quarter 4: Examples and Table Top Exercise



11. Issued Tsunami Information Statement Checklists

11.1. Definition

"A tsunami information statement is issued when an earthquake or tsunami has occurred of interest to the message recipients. In most cases, information statements are issued to indicate there is no threat of a destructive basin-wide tsunami and to prevent unnecessary evacuations. Information statements for distant events requiring evaluation may be upgraded to a warning, advisory, or watch based on updated information and analysis."

11.2. Message Distribution List

The National Tsunami Warning Center initiates tsunami alert messages. Subscribers to the app will receive a tsunami alerts through this application. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officers subscribe to the National Tsunami Warning Center app.

11.3. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer

1. Upon receiving a tsunami information statement with annotation "Tsunami Not Expected":
 - a. Confirm the "no tsunami risk" annotation in the message.
 - b. Annotate time of message receipt and any other pertinent information on the ICS-214a Duty Officer Log located in The Response Group Incident Action Plan software.
2. If the statement "Tsunami Not Expected" is absent from the information statement:
 - a. Confirm statement is absent from the tsunami information statement
 - b. Annotate time of message receipt and other pertinent information on the ICS - 214a Duty Officer Log located in The Response Group Incident Action Plan software.
 - c. Monitor National Tsunami Warning Center for additional tsunami statements pertaining to this event; be prepared to notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director if message is upgraded to a watch or higher



12. Issued Tsunami Watch Statement Checklists

12.1. Definition

A “Tsunami Watch” is issued when a tsunami may later impact the watch area. The watch may be upgraded to a warning or advisory or canceled based on updated information and analysis. Emergency management officials and the public should prepare to take action.

12.2. Key Whatcom County Considerations

A tsunami watch does not mean a tsunami is expected; additional information is required to make a determination which could lead to cancelling the watch altogether or upgrading the risk level. The tsunami watch provides the maximum time for taking any courses of action. The following are some key considerations when a tsunami watch has been issued:

- Vulnerable Populations living in possible inundation areas
- Number of transportation vehicles available to assist evacuation
- Time available to conduct necessary notifications
- Time and ability to mobilize any evacuation resources in a timely manner
- Time and ability to recall personnel needed help with evacuation activities
- Holidays or celebrations bringing additional people to the risk area

12.3. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer will take the following actions when a Tsunami Watch Statement has been issued¹:

1. Review tsunami watch message for affected areas (specifically Whatcom County or areas immediately adjacent to Whatcom County)
2. Determine if tsunami wave arrival time for any portion of Whatcom County shoreline is documented
3. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director of any impacts to Whatcom County of adjacent areas (e.g. Skagit County or British Columbia)

-
1. *NOTE: Messages have been developed. Fill in the appropriate blanks with information from the tsunami watch message. DO NOT RELEASE MESSAGE WITHOUT WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPROVAL)



4. When directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, schedule teleconference with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" in Alert Sense.
5. Create incident in The Response Group Incident Action Plan (TRG/IAP) software, if not previously created

12.4. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director

1. Create and chair Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference, if one has been scheduled
2. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management is the sole releasing authority for official Whatcom County tsunami messages for distribution to traditional or social media
3. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center
4. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Call Center

12.5. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Prepare traditional and social media messages as directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager or Deputy Director

12.6. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Prepare response resources
3. Deploy Command Staff Officer to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center, if activated

12.7. Fire/EMS

1. Participate in the Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Prepare response resources
3. Deploy Command Staff Officer to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center, if activated

12.8. Public Works

1. Participate in the Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Prepare response resources
3. Evaluate Ferry Operations
4. Deploy Command Staff Officer to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center, if activated



13. Issued Tsunami Advisory Statement Checklists

13.1. Definition

A tsunami advisory is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is imminent, expected, or occurring. The threat may continue for several hours after initial arrival, but significant inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include closing beaches, evacuating harbors, and marinas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Advisories may be updated, adjusted geographically, upgraded to a warning, downgraded or cancelled based on new or updated information and analysis.

13.2. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer

1. Review tsunami advisory statement for affected areas including Whatcom County or areas immediately adjacent to Whatcom County - Skagit County or British Columbia
2. Review tsunami advisory statement for tsunami wave arrival time for any portion of Whatcom County shoreline.
3. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director of Tsunami Advisory Statement
4. Notify City of Bellingham Emergency Manager
5. Notify Port of Bellingham Emergency Manager and Security Officer
6. When directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, schedule teleconference² with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group".
 - a. Plan meeting to begin as soon as possible but not more than 60 minutes from the time the advisory was received.

13.3. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director

1. Create and Chair Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Determine if evacuation is required
3. Determine areas to be closed or evacuated

² *NOTE: Teleconference Messages have been developed. Fill in the appropriate blanks with information from the tsunami watch message. DO NOT RELEASE MESSAGE WITHOUT DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL!)



4. Establish a time to activate appropriate Whatcom County All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System sirens based on best information at hand if not already activated.
5. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center Call Center to assist taking phone calls from the public.
6. Establish first responder evacuation times (should be at least 30 minutes prior to expected wave arrival time)
7. Participate in Washington State Emergency Management Division coordinated teleconferences.
8. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center
9. Create incident in The Response Group Incident Action Plan (TRG/IAP) software, if not previously created

13.4. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
2. Prepare traditional and social media messages as directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager or Deputy Director.

13.5. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

1. Serve as initial Incident Commander
2. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group Teleconference
3. At the direction of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management deploy resources to prevent entry into the inundation area(s) while allowing for evacuations.
4. Send Command Staff Duty Officer to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center to coordinate law enforcement actions County-wide.
5. Recall all available personnel to assist with evacuations, if required

13.6. Fire/EMS

1. Participate in "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" teleconference
2. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer to Operations Section
3. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required
4. Assist with notifications, including door-to-door, if necessary

13.7. Public Works

1. Participate in "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" teleconference
2. Deploy signs and personnel to close or block roads into inundation areas
3. Send Senior Liaison to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center to coordinate road closure and diversion actions
4. Provide personnel, as required, to assist with evacuation.



14. Issued Tsunami Warning Statement Checklists

14.1. Definition

A tsunami warning is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate widespread inundation is imminent, expected or occurring. Warnings alert the public that dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after initial arrival. Warnings alert emergency management officials to take action for the entire tsunami hazard zone. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Warnings may be updated, adjusted geographically, downgraded, or cancelled based on updated information and analysis.

14.2. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer

1. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management, Deputy Director a tsunami warning has been issued for Whatcom County.
2. Convene a Whatcom County Tsunami teleconference as soon as possible.
3. Ensure all county All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System are activated
4. Review tsunami warning message for wave arrival for Whatcom County shoreline (several locations may be identified with differing wave arrival times)

14.3. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director

1. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center
2. Chair the Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference and address:
3. Evacuation requirements
4. Road closures
5. Activation time for Whatcom County All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System sirens if not already activated
6. Activation of Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center Call Center
7. Not later than departure time for first responders aiding evacuations in inundation area(s)
8. Participate in Washington State Emergency Management Division teleconferences

14.4. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Develop Public Information statements for traditional and social media outlets. (NOTE: Do not release information statements until directed by Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director)



3. Activate the Whatcom County Public Information Officer Group, if required.
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, report to the Emergency Operations Center

14.5. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

1. Serve as initial Incident Commander
2. At the direction of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management deploy resources to prevent entry into the inundation area(s) while allowing for evacuations.
3. Send Command Staff Duty Officer to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center to coordinate law enforcement actions County-wide.
4. Recall all available personnel to assist with evacuations

14.6. Fire/EMS

1. Participate in "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" teleconference
2. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required
3. Ensure the All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System(s) located within jurisdiction is operating (wailing sound and vocal warning to evacuate)
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer Operations Section
5. Assist with evacuation notifications including door-to-door if necessary

14.7. Public Works

1. Deploy signs and personnel to close or block roads leading into inundation areas while allowing for evacuation of the area to continue at the direction of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management or Whatcom County Sheriff's Office.
2. Send Senior Liaison to Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center to coordinate road closure and diversion actions
3. Provide personnel, as required, to assist with evacuation.



15. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer Checklists

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time." If a "not later than departure time" has not been issued request The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time" may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

15.1. Information Statement

An Information Statement may be upgraded, as required

Review the Tsunami Information Statement issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center for:

15.1.1. *Tsunami Not Expected*

1. Annotate time and any other information on ICS-214a

15.1.2. *Further Evaluation Required*

1. Continue to monitor US Geological Survey and National Tsunami Warning Center for tsunami updates.
2. Repeat this checklist for each tsunami information statement received. (See Note)

15.2. Watch Statement

A watch can be upgraded, downgraded, or cancelled

1. Review message for impacted/affected areas (look specifically for Whatcom County or any area adjacent to Whatcom County)
2. Review watch statement for any tsunami wave arrival time to any portion of Whatcom County
3. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director of any anticipated wave impacts to Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia
4. When directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, schedule a teleconference with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" using AlertSense. Teleconference phone number and PIN will be included in the Alert Sense Message



15.3. Advisory Statement

An Advisory can be upgraded, downgraded, or cancelled

1. Review message for impacted/affected areas (look specifically for Whatcom County or any area adjacent to Whatcom County)
2. Review advisory statement for any tsunami wave arrival time to any portion of Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia
3. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director of Tsunami Advisory Statement along with any defined wave arrival times
4. Notify City of Bellingham Emergency Manager of the advisory statement
5. Notify the Port of Bellingham Emergency Manager and Security Officer of the advisory statement
6. When directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, schedule a teleconference with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" using AlertSense. Teleconference phone number and PIN will be included in the Alert Sense Message
7. If directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency

15.4. Warning Statement

A Warning can be downgraded or cancelled

1. Review message for impacted/affected areas (look specifically for Whatcom County or any area adjacent to Whatcom County)
2. Review advisory statement for any tsunami wave arrival time to any portion of Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia
3. Notify Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director of Tsunami Advisory Statement along with any defined wave arrival times
4. Notify City of Bellingham Emergency Manager of the advisory statement
5. Notify the Port of Bellingham Emergency Manager and Security Officer of the advisory statement
6. When directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, schedule a teleconference with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" using AlertSense. Teleconference phone number and PIN will be included in the Alert Sense Message
7. If directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Officer Division of Emergency Management Director or Deputy Director, report to the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center and assist is Emergency Operations Center activation processes.



16. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director Checklist

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time." If a "not later than departure time" has not been issued request The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time" may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

16.1. Information Statement

16.1.1. *Tsunami Not Expected*

1. No action required.

16.1.2. *Further Evaluation Required*

1. Collaborate with Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer on any required actions

16.2. Watch Statement

1. Determine need for Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference. Teleconference phone number and PIN will be included in the Alert Sense Message
2. If Coastal Disruptive Event Groups teleconference is required, have Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer schedule
3. Chair Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference.
4. Determine if any courses of action are warranted at this time (e.g. media messages, activation of Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center)
5. Determine resources to be put on Alert (e.g. Search and Rescue, etc.)
6. Positioning resources to Staging Areas, if needed
7. Act as releasing authority for Whatcom County tsunami media messages
8. Activate Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center, if necessary
9. Activate the Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Call Center, if necessary



16.3. Advisory Statement

1. Review message for impacted/affected areas and wave arrival times (look specifically for Whatcom County or any area adjacent to Whatcom County including Skagit County and British Columbia)
2. Direct Whatcom County Emergency Duty Office to coordinate Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference
3. Anticipate impacts to beaches, harbors, marinas, and shipping; recommend courses of action including evacuations, if necessary
4. Chair Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference. At a minimum discuss courses of action already underway and courses of action under consideration (e.g. evacuations, Assembly Area impacts, roadblocks, etc.)
5. Establish a time to activate appropriate Whatcom County All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System sirens in the event Washington State Emergency Operations Center is unable to activate system.
6. Establish a not later than time for first responders to vacate inundation areas (Wave arrival time minus 30 minutes)
7. Activate Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center
8. Activate the Whatcom County Emergency Operations Center Call Center, if required.
9. Participate in Washington State Emergency Management Division coordinated teleconferences
10. Create incident in The Response Group Incident Action Plan (TRG/IAP) software and annotate actions taken, if not already accomplished
11. Release appropriate media messages (includes traditional, social, and use of Emergency Alert mechanisms)

16.4. Warning Statement

1. Activate all Whatcom County All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System using Commander One I Washington State Emergency Operations Center has not already done so (NOTE: If tsunami wave is not predicted to reach Whatcom County shoreline for considerable period of time, etc.)
2. Review message for impacted/affected areas and wave arrival times (look specifically for Whatcom County or any area adjacent to Whatcom County including Skagit County and British Columbia)
3. Direct Whatcom County Emergency Duty Officer to coordinate Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference
4. Direct Whatcom County Emergency Duty Officer to confirm all Whatcom County All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning Systems are activated
5. Chair the Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference. At a minimum discuss courses of action already underway and courses of action under consideration (e.g. evacuations, Assembly Areas, roadblocks, etc.)



6. Establish a “not later than departure time” for first responders to exit inundation areas (not later than departure time should be at least 30 minutes prior to the first expected wave arrival time)
7. Activate Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center
8. Activate the Whatcom County Emergency Operations Center “Call Center”, if required.
9. Participate in Washington State Emergency Management Division coordinated teleconferences
10. Create incident in The Response Group Incident Action Plan (TRG/IAP) software and annotate actions taken, if not already accomplished
11. Release appropriate media messages (includes traditional, social, and use of Emergency Alert mechanisms)



17. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Checklist

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time." If a "not later than departure time" has not been issued request The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established "not later than departure time" may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

17.1. Information Statement

1. No action required

17.2. Watch Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Develop Public Information statements for traditional and social media outlets. (NOTE: Do not release information statements until directed by Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director)
3. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, report to the Emergency Operations Center

17.3. Advisory Statement

1. Participate in "Coastal Disruptive Event Group" teleconference, if scheduled
2. Develop Public Information statements for traditional and social media outlets. (NOTE: Do not release information statements until directed by Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director)
3. Activate the Whatcom County Public Information Officer Group, if required.
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, report to the Emergency Operations Center

17.4. Warning Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled



2. Develop Public Information statements for traditional and social media outlets. (NOTE: Do not release information statements until directed by Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director)
3. Activate the Whatcom County Public Information Officer Group, if required.
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, report to the Emergency Operations Center



18. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Duty Staff Officer Checklists

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time.” If a “not later than departure time” has not been issued, request the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time” may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

18.1. Information Statement

1. No action required

18.2. Watch Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Determine what resources may be requested, given known data.
3. Considerations:
 - a. Search and Rescue
 - b. Road blocks and resource requirements
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer Operations Section

18.3. Advisory Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference
2. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide Command Staff officer to Operations Section
3. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required.
4. Assist with notifications, including door-to-door, if necessary

18.4. Warning Statement

1. Serve as initial Incident Commander
2. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required
3. Establish roadblocks outside inundation areas to prevent people from entering inundation area



4. Assist with evacuations in the inundation area subject to warnings above
5. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference
6. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide Command Staff officer to Operations Section



19. Fire/EMS Agency Checklists

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time.” If a “not later than departure time” has not been issued, request the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time” may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

19.1. Information Statement

1. No action required

19.2. Watch Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Determine possible resource requirements
 - a. Personnel
 - b. Apparatus
3. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide Command Staff officer to Operations Section

19.3. Advisory Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, as scheduled
2. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide Command Staff officer to Operations Section
3. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required
4. Assist with notifications, including door-to-door, if necessary

19.4. Warning Statement

1. Participate in “Coastal Disruptive Event Group” teleconference, as scheduled
2. Mobilize and deploy resources, as required
3. Ensure the All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning System(s) located within jurisdiction is operating (wailing sound and vocal warning to evacuate)
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer Operations Section



5. Assist with evacuation notifications (including door-to-door) if necessary
6. Assist with evacuations in the inundation area subject to warnings above



20. Public Works Agency Checklists

Warning: Do not enter a tsunami inundation area unless you have a working radio or you are with someone who does. Without a working radio you will be unable to receive critical tsunami information concerning evacuation or tsunami wave behavior and timing. Failure to receive this time-sensitive information could result in serious injury or death.

Warning: Exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time.” If a “not later than departure time” has not been issued, request the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director establish one. Failure to exit an inundation area at the established “not later than departure time” may not leave enough time to escape the threatened area before tsunami wave arrival and could result in serious injury or death.

20.1. Information Statement

1. No action required

20.2. Watch Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Determine resources requirements:
 - a. Signs
 - b. Physical Barriers
 - c. Personnel
3. Determine impacts to Ferry Operations
4. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer to assist with planning actions

20.3. Advisory Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer Operations Section
3. Determine impacts to Ferry Operations
4. Mobilize and deploy resources to prevent entry into inundation areas

20.4. Warning Statement

1. Participate in Coastal Disruptive Event Group teleconference, if scheduled
2. Mobilize and deploy resources to block roads leading into inundation areas while allowing evacuees to leave



3. Assist with evacuations in the inundation area subject to instructions on when to vacate the inundation area
4. Determine impacts to Ferry Operations
5. If Whatcom Unified Emergency Operations Center has been activated, provide command staff officer Operations Section



21. Whatcom County Pre-Scripted Tsunami Messages

21.1. Overview

The following examples of tsunami messaging mirror the increasing urgency of an unfolding tsunami event. For example, a tsunami information statement will not generate the same urgent actions as a tsunami warning would. Yet, the need to inform responding agencies or the public may still exist. The following series of messages reflect a tiered progression beginning with the least of the tsunami threats (the information statement) to the greatest threat (the tsunami warning statement).

Each message is identified by: a message number, what the message is, who initiates the message (recommended), when the message should be used, and finally, the intended audience. The objective of pre-scripting these messages is to reduce the time spent creating messages to the maximum extent possible. This does not preclude creating an entirely new message based on the circumstances at hand. The list of messages is as follows:

- Information Statement: 100 Series Messages
- Watch Statement: 200 Series Messages
- Advisory Statement: 300 Series Messages
- Warning Statement: 400 Series Messages
- All Clear: 500 Series Message(s)

The message to be disseminated will be based on the role or agency you represent. For example, if the National Tsunami Warning Center issues a tsunami information statement which requires the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer to author a statement. The entry would be as follows:



21.2. 100 Series Information Statement Messaging

21.2.1. Message 101

WHO: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer

WHEN: Use when the National Tsunami Warning Center cannot state with certainty a tsunami condition does not exist.

AUDIENCE: Coastal Disruptive Event Group (Alert Sense: Whatcom County Internal Group)

MESSAGE 101

"As the result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.), the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska issued a tsunami information statement at _____ (date/time) for the West Coast of the United States, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The National Tsunami Warning Center is monitoring the affected area for possible tsunami development which could lead to additional information statements, increased alert levels or cancellation of any previously issued alert level." There are no watches, advisories, or warnings for our area at this time.



21.3. 200 Series Tsunami Watch Messaging

21.3.1. Message 201

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer
When: Use when coordinating a teleconference with the "Coastal Disruptive Event Group"
Audience: Coastal Disruptive Event Group (Alert Sense: Whatcom County Internal Group)

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami watch" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The watch has been issued as a result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). A teleconference of the Coastal Disruptive Event Group has been scheduled for _____ am/pm to coordinate any actions required at this time. The dial in number is _____ and the telephone access code is _____.

21.3.2. Message 202

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer
When: Use when communicating a Tsunami Watch Statement has been issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center which includes Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia)
Audience: Whatcom County Dispatch Centers (What-Comm 911, Prospect and Customs and Border Patrol 780)

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami watch" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The watch has been issued as a result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). At this time there are no evacuations issued for our area. This message may be upgraded to an advisory or warning or cancelled based on additional information. Further information will be made available as it becomes known.

21.3.3. Message 203

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Communications Manager
When: When Directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director
Audience: All those along Coastal Whatcom County and inundation threatened areas

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami watch" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The watch has been issued as a result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). This watch may be upgraded to a warning or advisory or canceled based on new or updated information. Residents in a tsunami threat area should have their "go-kit" where they can easily grab it in the even an evacuation becomes necessary. Continue to monitor radio or television for additional information.



21.4. 300 Series Tsunami Advisory Messaging

21.4.1. Message 301

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer
When: Coordinate a teleconference of the Whatcom County "Coastal Disruptive Event Group"
Audience: Coastal Disruptive Event Group (Alert Sense: Whatcom County Internal Group)

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami advisory" statement for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The advisory has been issued as a result of _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). A teleconference has been scheduled for _____am/pm. Dial in number is _____ and the teleconference access code is _____."

21.4.2. Message 302

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Duty Officer
When: Use when communicating a Tsunami Advisory Statement has been issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center which includes Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia)
Audience: Whatcom County Dispatch Centers (What-Comm 911, Prospect and Customs and Border Patrol 780)

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami advisory" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The advisory has been issued as a result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). At this time there are no evacuations issued for our area. This message may be upgraded to a warning, downgraded to a watch, or cancelled altogether based on additional information. Further information will be made available as it becomes known."

21.4.3. Message 303

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Communications Manager
When: When Directed by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director
Audience: All those along Coastal Whatcom County and inundation threatened areas

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami advisory" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area). The advisory has been issued as a result of a/an _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). This advisory may be upgraded to a warning, downgraded to a watch, or canceled altogether based on new or updated information. Currently, the following actions have been taken or are underway: _____. People with health conditions or other limiting conditions should consider moving to higher ground. Continue to monitor radio or television for additional information."



21.5. 400 Series Tsunami Warning Messaging

21.5.1. Message 401

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Communications Manager

When: Use when communicating a Tsunami Warning Statement has been issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center which includes Whatcom County or adjacent counties or British Columbia)

Audience: All those along Coastal Whatcom County and inundation threatened areas

"The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska has issued a "tsunami warning" for the US West Coast, British Columbia, and Alaska (or other designated area) including the shorelines of Whatcom County. The warning has been issued as a result of _____ (earthquake, landslide, etc.). All residents along the coast should evacuate to higher ground immediately. The All Hazard Alert Broadcast Warning Systems have been activated or will be activated. No one should attempt to enter the area and law enforcement will be turn-away anyone who does until the "all-clear message" is given. Additional information will be made available as this situation unfolds.



21.6. 500 Series All-Clear Messaging

21.6.1. Message 501

What: All-Clear Message

Who: Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Communications Manager

When: Use when communicating there is no longer a tsunami risk

Audience: All of Whatcom County

Based on information from the National Tsunami Warning Center, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center and surrounding counties and British Columbia, an "all-clear" state or condition exists for Whatcom County's shorelines. An "All-Clear" call should not be interpreted as a green light to return to homes and businesses in the inundation area. An assessment must be completed first to determine if new hazards may have been created by the tsunami waves including debris, electrical hazards, hazardous material, etc. The result(s) of the assessments will be evaluated to determine if and when residents are able to return or if other actions must be taken first.