

IOC Circular Letter No 3049

(Also available in French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VH/ON/ah

8 August 2025

To : Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs), National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS

C.c. : Chairpersons and Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs): CATAAC, CENALT, INATEWS, INGV, IPMA, ITEWS, JATWC, KOERI, NOA, NWPTAC, PTWC, SCSTAC)
Tsunami Information Centres (CTIC, IOTIC, ITIC, NEAMTIC)
Chairpersons of TOWS-WG and of Inter-ICG Task Teams
Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
IOC Officers

Subject: Basic tsunami warning product/template for use by the radio amateurs

At its 15th Session (27–29 April 2021), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XV) recommended its Member States to actively incorporate voluntary amateur radio organizations in each country, as support mechanism in national and international communications systems and protocols, and in CARIBE WAVE exercises, as an alternative and effective means of communication in case of alert or disaster, and to ensure redundancy of communications, and further recommended that National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) explore traditional and new methods such as amateur radio, Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), telegram services, SMS, social network messaging, Slack, and GeoNetcast for a more rapid, redundant and effective warning chain and for communication to the public of a local tsunami threat.

In February 2024, the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) requested the IOC Secretariat to share the basic tsunami warning product/template for use on radio, developed by the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, with the members of its Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations (TT-TWO) for review with a view to developing guidance for all Member States.

As a result of this process and following a recommendation of the TOWS-WG at its meeting in February 2025, the IOC Assembly, at its 33rd Session in June 2025, requested that the final version of the basic tsunami warning product/template for use by radio amateurs be disseminated as a guidance.

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By this circular, I invite you and the relevant national authorities to raise awareness among radio amateurs in your countries of the role they can play in the effective warning chain and communication to the public of a local tsunami threat by providing them with the following script:

*At **HH:MM** local time a magnitude **X.X** earthquake occurred at **Lat,Lon** with a depth of **X km, X km** Direction of **Place**. The **NTWC** has issued a **tsunami alert level** for **Place**.*

In case of any questions and/or need for clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bernardo Aliaga, Head of the Tsunami Resilience Section (b.aliaga@unesco.org) with copies to Ocal Necmioglu (o.necmioglu@unesco.org) and Angelos Haidar (a.haidar@unesco.org).

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary