

## 2008 National Awards in Excellence

### Response and Recovery

Broadcasters Tsunami Emergency Guidebook

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division

George Crawford, Earthquake Program Manager

Bldg 20; M/S: 20, Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

g.crawford@emd.wa.gov

Tel: 253-512-7067 Fax: 253-512-7072

The June 2005 Tsunami Warning for the West Coast identified that the broadcasters are part of the warning process through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) but that they did not understand national, state or local procedures on tsunami warning. The broadcasters needed the training and products associated with tsunami messages and evacuation to ensure that a consistent message was being sent by all stakeholders in the tsunami warning process. In 2006, the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) Earthquake Program in partnership with the EMD Public Information Officer (PIO) and National Weather Service-Seattle (NWS) developed a guidebook that would provide the necessary information needed by broadcasters supporting EAS.

The guidebook provides a concise overview of the notification process used to send tsunami alerts to public information broadcasters, local jurisdictions and the public. It includes a Tsunami Warning Flow Chart that shows how information is sent to broadcasters, a contact list of tsunami experts who can provide credible tsunami information when a tsunami bulletin is issued, and maps of tsunami inundation zones in Washington State. Two DVDs accompanied this guidebook – *Tsunamis in Washington* and *U.S. National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Selected Interviews*.

The EMD PIO and NWS-Seattle followed up the guidebook publication with visits and guidebook instruction to Seattle and Washington coastal and inland water area broadcasters. The book is presently being updated, and EMD and NWS will start their third yearly visit in May 2008. Since its development, broadcasters have used this guidebook numerous times to ensure that both the broadcasters and emergency management officials are consistent in their messaging.

The guidebook has been given to other at-risk tsunami states and territories as well as international communities. Oregon and Thailand used the guidebook as a template for their recently published guidebooks. It is also showcased in the international publication "Tsunami Teacher".