

**Western States Seismic Policy Council**  
**2011 Awards in Excellence**  
**Overall Award in Excellence for Outreach to General Public**

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**Administering Agency:** Washington State Military Department,  
Emergency Management Division

**Program Name:** Tsunami Public Education Instructor:  
Train-the-Trainer (T-3) Program

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**Program Summary**

The National Tsunami Educational Program (NTHMP) and Washington State's Tsunami Program focus on a "grass roots" approach that starts with the concept of high quality, local, Community-Specific Public Education Workshops.

On September 6th 2008, Washington State launched a Pilot Program and successfully implemented this community-level training component for the Shoalwater Bay Tribe in Pacific County. The purpose of the Tsunami Public Education Instructor (T3) Program is to train a cadre of professionals that are qualified to serve as Tsunami Public Education Instructors at the community level.

To achieve this, T3 Programs will provide participants with a basic understanding of fundamental principles and concepts in:

- Tsunami Science
- Tsunami Warning
- Tsunami Risk Reduction
- Conducting community-level Tsunami Public Education

Since the pilot program was launched in 2008, the course materials including PowerPoint presentations and fact sheets as well as program objectives have been refined based on participant feedback and additional courses have been conducted at Camp Murray, Montesano, and Port Angeles, Washington.

In addition to providing quality training at the community level, the T3 Program graduates provide an additional resource for local emergency managers for the community in which they reside. As the economic crisis continues, state and local emergency managers are continually being asked to do more with less. Moreover, training and education components of program budgets are often the first to be reduced or eliminated, but these critical components of tsunami public education are the most effective and have saved more lives than most technical warning systems. This program helps fill these most important needs.

The T3 Program concept is also consistent with Congressional guidance that the NTHMP shall implement "technical training" programs and with the Strategic Implementation Plan for Tsunami Mitigation Projects (Dengler, 1998), approved on 14 April 1998 by the NTHMP Mitigation Subcommittee, which identifies "an inadequacy of technical information available."