



State of Oregon
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 1985

TO: Governor

FROM: Gerry Thompson *Gerry*

Attached will give you a sense of the Tsunami happening.

First thing the next morning I met with Lynn Hardy to remind him I felt there should be a complete debriefing and evaluation of the exercise. He had already done that with his own staff. By early next week we should have that complete report. However, I ^{did} would ask him to add to that report some of my own critique.

1. Logistics. After consulting with both Bob Oliver and Miles, I made the decision that we should stay in the Governor's office to avoid getting in the way of Emergency Management staff. Furthermore, I made the hard decision we would not officially open the emergency management operation center unless we actually had a wave hit that caused damage and further action needed to be taken. Hindsight tells me this was the wrong decision. Oliver and I should have gone down at least to Lynn Hardy's office if not into the center and transferred all of our telephone lines to that location. Logistically it would have worked better and there would have been greater control over your own staff members working the situation, i.e., DM.

2. We collectively made a decision to open up the emergency management office so that press could review the process underway. We did this in the interest of public goodwill and understanding. However, specific instructions were not given to remove the press at some point. Consequently members of the media were looking over the shoulders of emergency management staff. The danger of this is hearing a staff member repeat a rumor, i.e., 100-foot wave, and then taking this as gospel truth to be reported. Hereafter I think press should have an opportunity to take pictures, a quick review of the process underway and then be asked to remove themselves from the area with assurance of frequent reporting.

3. At one point I made an attempt to notify legislative leadership of the situation and the activities underway. I was unable to reach either the president or the speaker with my first call. No further attempt was made. Hereafter I think there should be a concerted effort to notify legislative leadership in the event we experience extensive expenditures that would have to be taken to the emergency board later.

Aside from the above, I believe the operation went extremely well and after Denny's meeting at FEMA in Seattle, we are convinced emergency management in Oregon is superior on all counts to that exercised in Washington.



State of Oregon
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

May 9, 1986

To: Governor

From: Gerry Thompson

Re: Tsunami Alert, May 7, 1986

4:05 p.m. Received notification from Emergency Management of an earthquake in Alaska.

4:20 Details received from Emergency Management. Earthquake in Adak, 7.7 on the richter scale. Adak located 300-400 miles from Anchorage in the Aleutian chain. Earthquake occurred 100 miles SE of Adak. Tsunami predicted on coastal areas along Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California. No predicted time of arrival. Alaska urging evacuation of citizens from Adak to Sand Point. Adak reports minor damage from the earthquake.

4:30 Join Denny Miles in Emergency Management office to review teletypes. Also review teletypes coming into the press room.

4:45 Called a meeting of Emergency Management staff member John Olson, Bob Oliver and Denny Miles. Lynn Hardy on road, expected to arrive from out-of-state at 6:30. Alert Superintendent Brandaw, Gary Lockwood of National Guard. Emergency Management reported six staff available. Archie Mustard in Washington, Yandell in Eastern Oregon, Kin in Seattle.

Reviewed possibility of evacuation and at what levels for request; evaluated particulars of tsunami; evaluated estimated times of arrival regionally. Refreshed our memories of 1964 tsunami. Asked state police to evaluate their manpower. Asked military to evaluate availability of housing. Tried to evaluate definition of lowlands; gave up. No one had true definition.

5:15 Brandaw reported everyone alerted. Lockwood reported the following housing available: Camp Rilea, 1,000; Tillamook, 100; Newport 100; Coos Bay, 100; North Bend (old missile site) 60. All military personnel alerted to the possible use of armories.

6 p.m. Met with Emergency Management; asked that they alert all local officials and provide us with list of those alerted.

6:08 Received word estimated time of arrival at Astoria would be 9:30 p.m.

6:10 Met with Bob Oliver, emergency management. Evaluated situation. Received word Washington had ordered evacuation of two counties along the coast.

6:17 Bob Oliver, Gerry Thompson, emergency management, made decision to err on the cautious side and recommend evacuation of lowlands along the coast. Advised OSP and Military of precautionary evacuation. Advised emergency management to notify all local authorities of recommended evacuation and advise housing could be made available upon request.

6:30 Thompson placed call to Hong Kong to advise Governor. Governor had not arrived; left word for him to return call.

6:45 Emergency management advises that OSP, Highway, State Parks, all counties, Coast Guard and 304th Rescue Division notified and acknowledged except for Lane and Clatsop Counties. GT instructed that Lane and Clatsop be contacted for acknowledgment of alert.

6:50 GT requested OPS keep open line to Astoria.

7 p.m. Lynn Hardy arrives and is briefed by GT and BO.

7:15 GT calls Mrs. Atiyeh to inform.

7:17 GT asks OSP communications between Coos Bay be kept open and questioned OSP about Newport Station being closed. Asked that all state police stations be opened along the coast.

7:25 Advised Newport station will be open within 30 minutes. Watson on way to headquarters. GT asks Brandaw to get assessment of people and activities from all coast stations.

7:40 GT advises emergency Management to advise local authorities again that armories available if emergency housing needed.

7:41 Advised Lockwood of bulletin regarding armories.

7:45 Emergency Management reports that Coast Guard Station at Nea Bay, tip of Straits of Juan de Fuca will report to us at 8 p.m. Wave has been cited from air off coast of Canada. Estimated time of arrival in the Puget Sound area 8 p.m. GT advises emergency management to prepare operations center so that if needed it can be activated upon a minute's notice.

7:50 TV reports roadblocks and evacuees along coast; taking place smoothly. Also reports lowland definition 50 feet above sea level and below.

7:52 GT advises emergency management of TV report.

7:55 Hardy advises Coast Guard in Seattle will keep us informed of any wave activity.

7:57 Hardy advises a private line to him -- 373-1300.

7:58 Watson advises all district OSP offices along the coast are now manned by either commanders or supervisors and their troopers put on standby.

8 p.m. Patricia McKage called to say Tom Hanlon called for advice. GT refers call to EM.

8:02 Watson reports teletype indicating no wave action at Seward, AK. Good contacts with local officials. Coast Guard, State Police up and down the coast.

8:05 Hardy advises a gentleman from Aeronautics is willing to volunteer to fly plane over coast and monitor for wave action out of Astoria. Advise Hardy unnecessary. May cause too much traffic in air with coast guard helicopters and other aircraft. GT asks that Hardy thank him. Tell him we will contact if situation requires additional monitoring.

8:10 Hanlon calls from Cannon Beach. GT briefs.

8:12 DM reports that teletype coming into Emergency Management indicating wave is getting smaller.

8:13 Watson reporting heavy traffic from citizens inland. Astoria reports biggest problem is media report 25-100 foot wave. Reporters all gone to the higher ground. Fire department gone door to door. No panic. Operation smooth. Northern coast is completely cleared.

8:15 Emergency Management reports Kodiak and Seward experience no wave. Wave action; Adak 70 cm, 2.3 feet and decreasing; Sand Point less than 10 cm, .3 feet and decreasing.

8:24 Watson reports Washington State Patrol restricting traffic on 101 West.

8:30 Watson reports Coast Guard boat stationed at mouth of Umpqua, moved 12 miles out to sea. Set up for evacuation Sandy Cove at Winchester Bay evacuating. OSP contacting people along beach. Media reports are good.

8:44 Watson reports no traffic problems except for small buildup in Warrenton area.

8:52 Brandaw reports Gold Beach well-secured.

8:55 Emergency management reports Alaska warning center has transferred watch to the Pacific warning center.

8:57 Watson reports that the Astoria State Police indicate Cannon Beach and Seaside secure with shut down and evacuation. Some problem with people coming into area. Steady stream of traffic on Hwy 26. 101 Washington State Police still closed. State Police have two troopers in area and will put two more out. OSP guard stationed at Fort Stevens, predicted to be first hit.

9:02 Hardy reports lowlands along Southern Oregon Coast secure. Watson reports Newport experiencing average traffic. Coast Guard recommended removal of boats from rivers.

9:10 Lockwood reports more people coming to Camp Rilea. No requests from local authorities, but apparently local sheriffs advise some citizens to go to Camp Rilea. Lockwood asked citizens be made comfortable. GT tries to reach Governor in Hong Kong. Contact made ten minutes after arrival at hotel. Governor fully briefed on situation and actions taken. Governor gives D. Miles statement.

9:25 Watson reports traffic thinning down somewhat. Traffic bottleneck at junction of 101 and 26.

9:35 Channel 6 reports higher wave and earlier than predicted. Coast Guard quoted as saying that reports from Alaska says will be minor, traveling at 600 mph.

9:42 Miles reports from Emergency Management office alert still in effect.

9:45 Watson reports teletype received that AK has all clear.

10:04 Oregon time GT calls Governor and updates.

10:14 Emergency Management reports that Cape Scott lighthouse off Vancouver, WA reported at 21:40 five waves, experienced average 1.4 m or 4.7 feet. Report confirmed by Coast Guard.

10:15 Emergency management Nea Bay reports wave 2-3 feet at 10:11. Confirmed by U.S. Forest Service and Coast Guard.

10:28 Emergency Management reports verbal message from Pacific warning station to give all clear. Emergency Management further reports they will call off all state agencies. GT warns them no such signal shall be sent and all clear not granted in Oregon until hard copy of message received. Miles begins preparing all clear release.

10:30 Hard copy of all clear message received and confirmed.

10:35 Miles releases all clear statement from Governor's office including quote from VA.

10:40 Confirmed OSP and Military have received all clear message.

10:45 Confirms Emergency Management notified all other authorities.

10:45 Close down of Emergency Management and state agencies.

10:50 Denny Miles, Bob Oliver, leave office for home.

11:22 Governor calls GT at home. Governor advised of all clear message. No wave action. No damage.

HNLTUCP
WEPA41 PHNL 280511

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ZZZZZ

TSUNAMI WARNING FINAL SUPPLEMENT. BULLETIN NO. PPU
THIS MESSAGE IS FOR ALL COASTAL AREAS AND ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC BASIN
FROM THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER/NOAA/NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.
AN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED AT 2247 UTC 07 MAY / QWRU HST 07 MAY.
PRELIMINARY MAG 7.7 PRELIMINARY LOCATION LAT 51.3N LONG 175.0W
IN THE VICINITY OF ADAK ALASKA
A PACIFIC WIDE TSUNAMI HAS BEEN GENERATED. WAVE HEIGHTS /THESE ARE
NOT NECESSARILY THE HIGHEST/ HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:
MAXIMUM WAVE HEIGHTS OF 175 CM AT ADAK, ALASKA
WAVES OF 30 CM RECORDED AT UNALASKA ISLAND
WAVES OF 10 CM RECORDED AT SAND POINT ALASKA
MAX WAVE HEIGHTS OF 67 CM AT MIDWAY ISLAND
MAX WAVE HEIGHT OF 27 CM AT HONOLULU HARBOR

MAXIMUM WAVES AT HILO 55 CM
MAXIMUM WAVES IN JAPAN 13 CM
NO DESTRUCTIVE PACIFIC WIDE TSUNAMI IS PREDICTED.
MINOR SEA LEVEL FLUCTUATIONS OF LESS THAN 50 CM WILL BE
RECORDED AT SOME TIDE STATIONS. THE TSUNAMI WARNING FOR
THE PACIFIC IS CANCELLED.
ALL AREAS SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE TSUNAMI THREAT IS OVER WHEN
DAMAGING WAVES HAVE NOT OCCURRED FOR AT LEAST TWO HOURS OR TWO
HOURS AFTER ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL IF NO MAJOR WAVES ARE
RECORDED. DANGER TO BOATS AND COASTAL STRUCTURES MAY CONTINUE
FOR SEVERAL HOURS DUE TO RAPID CURRENT CHANGES.

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Gov. Vic Atiyeh
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

May 7, 1986 6:20 pm

The Oregon Governor's office is recommending a precautionary evacuation of all low lying areas along the Oregon coast. In addition the public is warned not to approach these areas. The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center has advised us of a sever earthquake in Alaska and a resultant Tsunami. The Tsunami is forcast to reach the Oregon coast about 9:15 pm to 9:30 pm this evening. Residents of the low lying areas should listen to their local radio stations for an all-clear message prior to re-entering the area.

Note that the arrival times are now about 30 minutes earlier that originally reported by the Warning Center.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

May 7, 1986 10:35 pm

The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center has canceled the warning for the Oregon coast. The Oregon governor's office is recommending that citizens return to their homes.

"The apparent lack of damage or injury is gratifying," Gov. Atiyeh said. "Given how unpredictable Tsunamis are I am glad we took precautions. As expected Oregonians acted responsibly and rationally."

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JEGG

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PDXTSUEP

TTAA00 KPDX 030026

PART 1 OF 2

FM NWS/ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER PALMER AK
TO TCC ELMENDORF/RELAY TO ALL AUTODIN ADDRESSEES Z

BT

UNCLAS

TSUNAMI WARNING BULLETIN NO. PPE

FROM: ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER/NOAA/NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
THIS IS A TSUNAMI WARNING FOR THE COASTAL AREAS OF ALASKA,
BRITISH COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA.A SEVERE EARTHQUAKE, PRELIMINARY MAGNITUDE 7.7 OCCURRED AT
1447 ADT ON MAY 7 OR 2247 UTC ON MAY 7. THE EARTHQUAKE WAS
LOCATED 100 MILES SE OF ADAK, AK. NOR, UP MILES SW
OF ATKA VILLAGE, AK.A TSUNAMI HAS BEEN GENERATED WHICH COULD CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE
PACIFIC COAST. WAVE HEIGHTS, THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE
HIGHEST HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

ADAK 175CM OR 5.8FEET

PRELIMINARY REPORTS OF MINOR DAMAGE AT ADAK.

TSUNAMI WAVE HEIGHTS CANNOT BE PREDICTED AND MAY BE A SERIES
OF WAVES WHICH COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE
INITIAL WAVE ARRIVAL.

BT

ANCTSUEP

WEPA40 PAAQ 030013

PART 2 OF 2

BT

TSUNAMI WARNING BULLETIN NO. PPE

FROM: ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER/NOAA/NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
ESTIMATED TIMES OF ARRIVAL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| SHEMYA | 1612 ADT MAY 7 | JUNEAU | 2027 ADT MAY 7 |
| ADAK | 1517 ADT MAY 7 | SITKA | 1832 ADT MAY 7 |
| UNALASKA | 1632 ADT MAY 7 | KETCHIKAN | 1912 ADT MAY 7 |
| COLD BAY | 1717 ADT MAY 7 | LANGARA | 1927 PDT MAY 7 |
| SAND POINT | 1702 ADT MAY 7 | TOFINO | 2117 PDT MAY 7 |
| KODIAK | 1802 ADT MAY 7 | NEAH BAY | 2102 PDT MAY 7 |
| HOMER | 2017 ADT MAY 7 | ASTORIA | 2202 PDT MAY 7 |
| SEWARD | 1832 ADT MAY 7 | CRESCENT CITY | 2147 PDT MAY 7 |
| VALDEZ | 1847 ADT MAY 7 | SAN FRANCISCO | 2147 PDT MAY 7 |
| CORDOVA | 1857 ADT MAY 7 | SAN PEDRO | 2232 PDT MAY 7 |
| YAKUTAT | 1832 ADT MAY 7 | LA JOLLA | 2317 PDT MAY 7 |

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW FROM THE ALASKA, TSUNAMI WARNING
CENTER

BT

PDXPNSPDX
TTAA33 KPDY 033207
PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORTLAND, OR
735 PM PDT THU MAY 07 001Y

TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT...

AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7.7 ON THE RICHTER SCALE OCCURRED ABOUT 3.47 PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME. THE EPICENTER WAS ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTHEAST OF ADAX...ALASKA. A TSUNAMI HAS BEEN GENERATED AND IS MOVING TOWARDS THE WEST COAST. A TSUNAMI WARNING WAS ISSUED EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON FOR COASTAL AREAS OF ALASKA...BRITISH COLUMBIA...WASHINGTON...OREGON...AND CALIFORNIA.

THE GOVERNORS OFFICE HAS RECOMMENDED EVACUATION OF LOW LYING AREAS OF THE OREGON COAST. THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO APPROACH THESE AREAS. COASTAL RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO MONITOR LOCAL RADIO STATIONS FOR AN ALL CLEAR MESSAGE BEFORE REENTERING THESE AREAS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME TSUNAMI SAFETY RULES...

IF THE QUAKE IS LOCATED NEAR OR DIRECTLY UNDER THE OCEAN...PROBABILITY OF A TSUNAMI INCREASES. THIS WAS A DEEP QUAKE.

A TSUNAMI IS NOT A SINGLE WAVE...BUT A SERIES OF WAVES. STAY OUT OF DANGER UNTIL AN ALL CLEAR IS ISSUED BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY.

APPROACHING TSUNAMIS ARE SOMETIMES HERALDED BY A NOTICEABLE RISE OR FALL OF COASTAL WATER. THIS IS NATURES TSUNAMI WARNING AND SHOULD BE HEEDED. SHIPS USUALLY CANNOT DETECT A TSUNAMI WHEN THEY ARE AT SEA. ALSO...THE TSUNAMI CANNOT BE SEEN FROM THE AIR. IN DEEP WATER... TSUNAMI WAVES MAY REACH SPEEDS EXCEEDING 600 MILES PER HOUR.

A SMALL TSUNAMI AT ONE BEACH CAN BE A GIANT A FEW MILES AWAY. DO NOT LET THE MODEST SIZE OF ONE MAKE YOU LOSE RESPECT FOR ALL.

NEVER...REPEAT NEVER...GO DOWN TO THE BEACH TO WATCH FOR A TSUNAMI. WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE WAVE...YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO ESCAPE.

ROUGH ESTIMATES OF ARRIVAL TIMES FOR THE OREGON COAST ARE AS FOLLOWS...

SEASIDE 925 PM... ASTORIA 10.22PM... NEWPORT 930 PM...NORTH BEND
9.40 PM... COOS BAY 940 PM...

FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED AS CONDITIONS DEVELOP.

END/ROE

DNND

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