

NOUS41 KWBC 251600  
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 10-13  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC  
1100 AM EST THU FEB 25 2010

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:  
-FAMILY OF SERVICES  
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE  
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK  
-NOAAPORT  
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: THERESE Z. PIERCE  
CHIEF...MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND INFORMATION  
STATEMENT DEFINITIONS FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTS ISSUED BY THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI  
WARNING CENTER: EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 2010

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL 1 2010 AT 1800 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME  
/UTC/...DEFINITIONS USED FOR DOMESTIC TSUNAMI PRODUCTS ISSUED BY THE  
PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER /PTWC/ WILL BE REVISED TO PROVIDE BETTER  
INDICATION OF EXPECTED TSUNAMI IMPACT LEVEL AND TO MORE CLOSELY ALIGN  
TSUNAMI PRODUCTS TO OTHER NWS WARNING/WATCH/ADVISORY PRODUCT SUITES.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT REVISION IS TO THE TSUNAMI ADVISORY DEFINITION.  
CURRENTLY...A TSUNAMI ADVISORY STATES THAT A WATCH OR WARNING IS IN EFFECT  
FOR ANOTHER PART OF THE OCEAN BASIN AND THAT THE TSUNAMI MAY OR MAY NOT  
AFFECT THE AREA UNDER THE ADVISORY. THE NEW ADVISORY STATES A TSUNAMI IS  
EXPECTED THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN OR NEAR THE WATER BUT NO  
SIGNIFICANT INUNDATION IS EXPECTED.

UNDER THE NEW DEFINITIONS...IN SITUATIONS WHERE A TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH  
OR ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR ANOTHER AREA OF THE OCEAN...ONLY A TSUNAMI  
INFORMATION STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED BY PTWC REGARDLESS OF THE POTENTIAL  
FUTURE THREAT.

THE REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH...ADVISORY AND INFORMATION STATEMENT  
DEFINITIONS ARE LOCATED IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 1. REVISED TSUNAMI WARNING...ADVISORY...WATCH AND INFORMATION  
STATEMENT DEFINITIONS FOR PTWC DOMESTIC PRODUCTS: EFFECTIVE THURSDAY APRIL  
1 2010

TSUNAMI WARNING: A TSUNAMI WARNING IS ISSUED WHEN A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI WITH  
SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD INUNDATION IS IMMINENT OR EXPECTED. WARNINGS ALERT  
THE PUBLIC THAT WIDESPREAD...DANGEROUS COASTAL FLOODING ACCOMPANIED BY  
POWERFUL CURRENTS IS POSSIBLE AND MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER  
ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE. WARNINGS ALSO 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 REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS

TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. WARNINGS MAY BE UPDATED...ADJUSTED GEOGRAPHICALLY...DOWNGRADED OR CANCELED. TO PROVIDE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ALERT...INITIAL WARNINGS ARE NORMALLY BASED ONLY ON SEISMIC INFORMATION.

TSUNAMI WATCH: A TSUNAMI WATCH IS ISSUED TO ALERT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC OF AN EVENT THAT MAY LATER IMPACT THE WATCH AREA. THE WATCH AREA MAY BE UPGRADED TO A WARNING OR ADVISORY - OR CANCELED - BASED ON UPDATED INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS. THEREFORE...EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD PREPARE TO TAKE ACTION. WATCHES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED BASED ON SEISMIC INFORMATION WITHOUT CONFIRMATION THAT A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI IS UNDERWAY.

TSUNAMI ADVISORY: A TSUNAMI ADVISORY IS ISSUED FOR THE THREAT OF A POTENTIAL TSUNAMI THAT MAY PRODUCE STRONG CURRENTS OR WAVES DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN OR NEAR THE WATER. COASTAL REGIONS HISTORICALLY PRONE TO DAMAGE DUE TO STRONG CURRENTS INDUCED BY TSUNAMIS ARE AT THE GREATEST RISK. THE THREAT MAY CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE INITIAL WAVE...BUT SIGNIFICANT WIDESPREAD 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 REPOSITIONING SHIPS TO DEEP WATERS WHEN THERE IS TIME TO SAFELY DO SO. ADVISORIES ARE NORMALLY UPDATED TO CONTINUE THE ADVISORY...EXPAND/CONTRACT AFFECTED AREAS...UPGRADE TO A WARNING...OR CANCEL THE ADVISORY.

TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT: A TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT IS ISSUED TO INFORM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC THAT AN EARTHQUAKE HAS OCCURRED...OR THAT A TSUNAMI WARNING...WATCH OR ADVISORY HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR ANOTHER SECTION OF THE OCEAN. IN MOST CASES...INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ISSUED TO INDICATE THERE IS NO THREAT OF A DESTRUCTIVE TSUNAMI AND TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY EVACUATIONS BECAUSE THE EARTHQUAKE MAY HAVE BEEN FELT IN COASTAL AREAS. AN INFORMATION STATEMENT MAY...IN APPROPRIATE SITUATIONS...CAUTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTRUCTIVE LOCAL TSUNAMIS. INFORMATION STATEMENTS MAY BE REISSUED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...THOUGH NORMALLY...THESE MESSAGES ARE NOT UPDATED. HOWEVER...A WATCH...ADVISORY OR WARNING MAY BE ISSUED FOR THE AREA...IF NECESSARY...AFTER ANALYSIS AND/OR UPDATED INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PRODUCT TYPE LINES AND PRODUCT COMMUNICATIONS IDENTIFIERS REMAIN THE SAME.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT TSUNAMI PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PTWC CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.PRH.NOAA.GOV/PTWC](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...PLEASE CONTACT:

CHARLES MCCREERY  
PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
EWA BEACH HAWAII  
[CHARLES.MCCREERY@NOAA.GOV](mailto:CHARLES.MCCREERY@NOAA.GOV)

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

\$\$

NNNN