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I. PURPOSE

These Standard Operating Policies are intended to provide the framework in which the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department can respond and operate effectively and safely to destructive tsunamis. These events have the potential to take the lives of citizens and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department personnel.

These policies also will enable personnel of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department to identify and respond to the threat of a tsunami. Safety of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department personnel must be a primary concern during a tsunami event as well as to ensure effective emergency operations.

SEE APPENDIX (A) FOR COMPLETE LIST OF DEFINITIONS AND ADDITIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION

II. SCOPE

This Standard Instruction shall apply to all emergency service personnel including: all Chief Officers, Captains, Engineers, Firefighters, Single Role Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians.

Individual sections or divisions of the Department may vary from this policy subject to the approval of the Fire Chief or his/her designee. These units include, but are not limited to: Lifeguard Services, Metro Arson Strike Team, Fire and Hazard Prevention, Fire Communications, Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team, and Special Trauma and Rescue Team.

III. PREPARATION LEVELS

Preparation levels are a pre-designated alerting system. This system is utilized by the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. These warning are issued as far in advance as possible of a tsunami event. San Diego Fire-Rescue Department personnel can utilize these warning in preparation of a tsunami event. See Appendix A for expanded Tsunami Warning definitions.

A. LEVEL I

1. Tsunami Watch - Issued for possible Tele-Tsunamis from distant places.
2. These are defined as arriving from a location over three hours away (1,000 miles or more).

B. LEVEL II

1. Tsunami Warning - Issued for possible near-source or confirmed Tele-Tsunami.

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2. These are defined as arriving from a location less than three hours away.

C. LEVEL III

1. Local Earthquake 6.5 or greater, with Potential for Locally-Generated Tsunami.

D. Level IV

1. Actual Tsunami Impact Occurs.

IV. Tsunami Procedures

Tsunami Watches to Tsunami Deployments require actions to prepare. Additionally these preparations require timely movement and staging of resources to assist with coastal evacuations and responses. All of these may be made in anticipation of a tsunami impact or actual impact in the City of San Diego or surrounding areas. The following items outlined in this policy may be activated to an alerted level or deployed based on the needs of the incident.

A. FCC

1. FCC shall initiate an All-Call to notify all operations units, staff personnel, and Chief Officers of a potential Tsunami.
2. Advisory shall include:
 - a. Pertinent information regarding the Tsunami Watch level.
 - b. Any messages pertaining to the incident.
 - c. Potential cause of the tsunami.
 - d. Direction of travel of the tsunami.
 - e. Possible ETA of the impact.
3. If tsunami(s) is/are observed
 - a. Lookouts shall notify FCC of any important information regarding the tsunami.
 - b. FCC shall then initiate the Emergency Traffic protocols and announce the incoming tsunami.
 - c. Direct field units in tsunami impact zone(s) to move to established escape or safe zones.

B. Establish look outs

1. Affected Battalion Chiefs should consider establishing Look-outs on high ground with increased visibility and improved communications abilities.
2. If impacts occur, look outs should also be utilized to watch for secondary tsunamis.

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3. Officers should utilize locations that are elevated and less likely to flood.
4. The following are points that may be utilized to establish a look out point:
 - a. Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument
 - b. Mount Soledad, War Memorial Site
 - c. Torrey Pines Glider Port
 - d. South Bay, Wing Park
 - e. Fire Station 11

C. Operations

1. Fire Stations should gather information relative to the level of activation.
2. Personnel shall assist in posting watches.
3. Ensure personnel conduct operations in such a manner to optimize crew safety.
4. Assist in evacuation plans.
5. Provide feedback to the IC regarding pre and post impact information.
6. Establish Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI) or Multiple Patient Incident (MPI) plans.
7. Activate Annex D.
8. Conduct Searches.
9. Establish recon for access into impacted areas.
10. Request Rescue 4 to assist in water rescue needs.

D. Emergency Medical Services

1. Activation of Medical Mass Casualty response.
2. Request EMS Stations to respond.
3. Request Duty Medical Services (DMS) response.
4. Request San Diego County Disaster Services and resources.

E. Air Operations

1. Can be utilized as a tsunami watch.
2. Air Operations Branch can respond to the coast to give evacuation warning to harbors and coastline areas.
3. Can be utilized in rescue or air lift situations.
4. Recon impact areas

F. Public Information Officer

1. Activation of a Code N incident can be utilized to inform the public of:
 - a. Activation of a Tsunami Level I-IV.
 - b. Actions to be taken by the public.
 - c. Potential tsunami impact zones.

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G. SDPD

1. Establish a liaison with San Diego Police Department (SDPD)
 - a. SDPD could be utilized for coordinating evacuation efforts should they be necessary.

H. Additional Resources to consider

1. United States Coast Guard
2. Military Assets
3. Swift water teams
4. Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Urban Search & Rescue (US&R)