



Press Release

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Immediate Release
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***OFFICIALS CONDUCT TEST OF THE
ALASKA TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM***

CAMP DENALI, Alaska — At approximately 9:45 a.m. Alaska Standard Time, radio and television audiences should have heard a test of the Alaska Tsunami Warning System. The live tsunami test code was initiated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service and the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in cooperation with local emergency management offices and the Alaska Broadcasters Association. The annual test of the live tsunami codes gives agencies and broadcasters the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of both the Alaska Emergency Alert (EAS) and the Tsunami Warning System.

Governor Parnell proclaimed March 25 - 31, 2012 as Tsunami Preparedness Week, coinciding with the anniversary of the 1964 Great Alaskan Earthquake. The devastating 9.2 magnitude earthquake triggered deadly tsunamis 48 years ago on Good Friday. The test of the Alaska Tsunami Warning System is now a focal point of Tsunami Preparedness Week.

The communications test involved NOAA Weather Radio, the Emergency Alert System, and other state and local communication links. The radio and television test included the familiar alerting tone followed by an audio message describing the test, similar to routine monthly tests of the EAS. Many television systems are programmed to scroll a standard emergency alert text message. The message may or may not have contained the word "TEST," as determined by each broadcaster's equipment. An audio message stated the warning is a test, but if the volume is turned down or otherwise unheard, viewers may not have realized the warning was a test. Communities with tsunami sirens may also have tested their sirens during the test.

Members of the public who heard the test are encouraged to log onto www.tsunami.gov/test, to take a brief survey. Most importantly, people in coastal areas who DID NOT receive the test through commercial radio or weather radio should fill out the online survey and inform their local NWS office. Officials will evaluate the success of the test and continue to improve this critical warning system.

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