

HMSC Safety Committee Minutes: March 18, 2005

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS

In lieu of the HMSC monthly safety meeting, a gathering open to all HMSC personnel was held in Hennings Auditorium to hear presentations by several experts on tsunamis and tsunami preparedness.

Yumei Wang - DOGAMI

Yumei was part of a Society of Civil Engineer's Investigative Team that visited Thailand following the subduction zone earthquake that occurred off Sumatra in December, 2004. The purpose was to examine lifeline performance and damage to water supplies, wastewater, communications, electricity, critical buildings, roadways/bridges, airport, military, ports and beaches.

Lessons learned

Very long shaking (7 min)
Distant (vs. local) tsunami can cause extreme damage
Subduction zone quake is very costly (lives, \$)
Reinforced concrete "can" survive wave forces
Structural walls parallel to wave direction performed better
Elevated structures performed better (flow thru)
Basements flood
Strong/good foundations necessary for scour
Seawalls "can" be effective
Beaches (in Thailand) recovering rapidly
Response and recovery will be very long term

George Priest – DOGAMI

- Discussed a report by the Japanese of 30 m waves following the Sumatran quake. He said that the data was still coming in and he didn't believe that the models developed here are that far off, however, submarine landslides can cause higher waves.
- We are sitting on highly liquefiable sand.
- Our LNG tank was not built under state regulations – it was build under federal regulations. There are ways to build LNG tanks to reduce risks.
- In the case of a tsunami he would head for our evacuation site. He believes it would withstand a tsunami.
- Homes can be made more resistant to earthquakes by putting bolts into the foundation. It is not terribly difficult.

Chris Heathman – DOGAMI

Tyree Wilde – National Weather Service Portland

Tyree is a meteorologist with the Weather Service and is in charge of the Tsunami Ready Program. This is a new program. Currently there are 5 “tsunami ready” communities in Oregon. The basics of the program are:

Communications – 24 hr warning + Emergency Operations Center

NWS warning reception – Multiple ways to receive a NWS tsunami warning. Examples are NOAA weather radio, internet, television, phones, e-mail, etc.

Warning dissemination

Outreach and education

Administrative – Operations plan, Annual meeting.

NOAA will hold a ceremony when awarded “Tsunami Ready”

Certification must be renewed every 3 years.

Website –www.tsunami.gov

Mike Bamberger – Benton County Emergency Services

Offered to help organize an Incident Command System. Works with OSU in Corvallis.