Role of State Tsunami Geoscientists during Emergency Response Activities: Example from the State of California (USA) during the September 29, 2009, Samoa Tsunami Event


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Pre-Tsunami Field Responses in California: September 29, 2009 Event by Geoscientists

Organized teams of geoscientists collected preliminary tsunami data in the field after an event has occurred. However, there has not been a formal organized effort to establish field response teams prior to a telecommunication arrival of a tsunami warning. The need for geoscientists was recognized by California emergency managers, state and local, to meet the needs of those impacted by a tsunami. Although it may seem intuitive that geoscientists could be very valuable to emergency managers if organized through agencies, the successful implementation of a tsunami warning model relied heavily on the integration of the local emergency management and to a regional field manager that was well integrated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Tsunami Tsunami Warning System (NTWS) and State (California) Tsunami Warning System. The extent to which the state geoscientists could be valuable to emergency managers if organized through agencies is unknown.

During the September 29, 2009 Tsunami Event, several geoscientists from California were involved in the tsunami warning effort and expanded their work to assist the state and local emergency management and the public.

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Acknowledgements and References