2026 Tsunami Exercise Instructions

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Exercise Website: https://www.laxnortheast.org/exercises/tsunami

Executive Summary

The 2026 Tsunami Exercise is a simulated emergency response scenario designed to test and enhance the capabilities of amateur radio operators in disaster situations. Participants will engage in a series of tasks, including logging activities, submitting reports (DYFI), conducting Winlink check-ins and check-outs, sending welfare messages, and sharing situational awareness through ICS messages.

The exercise emphasizes using standardized forms and procedures, such as ICS-214, ICS-213, and Winlink templates, to ensure effective communication and coordination. Participants will simulate responses to a significant earthquake and the subsequent tsunami and flood warnings, testing their ability to provide critical information and support in a high-stress environment. The exercise aims to improve preparedness, communication skills, and overall effectiveness in emergency situations.

Contents

Operational Period

Date & Time: **March 19, 2026, 0600 UTC, to March 30, 2026, 0600 UTC**

Exercise Instructions Common to All Messages

- ☐ Incident Name/Exercise ID: **TSUNAMI**
  - ☐ Use all CAPS for the incident name. That helps sort and search your form data.
- ☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
  - ☐ For DYFI: leave the default USGS email address as is and CC: TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL
- ☐ **Latitude, Longitude:** Find your latitude and longitude through Google Maps (https://www.google.com/maps), right click on the location then enter the values up to 4 digits below.

- ☐ Comments:
  - ☐ Line 1: **EXERCISE**
  - ☐ Line 2: (**GROUP)**
    - ☐ your group affiliation, e.g. LAXNORTHEAST, SDG ARES, ETO, etc. You may enter multiple affiliations separated by commas, e.g. “HAWAII ARES, ETO”
    - ☐ SOLO if you have no group affiliation.
- ☐ XML: Please include the XML in your message as ETO uses it for message feedback.
- ☐ Check Winlink Settings > Form Settings > **Attach XML Files with Form data to messages generated by forms**

Address Pro-Tip: Create Group Address in Winlink

Creating a group address in Winlink is optional but helpful for exercises with multiple recipients. If you choose to do this, here is how:

In Winlink go to **Settings > Group Addresses > Add Group**

- Name of Group: **TSUNAMI-DRILL**
- Addresses in Group: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
  - Note: you may add additional addresses separated by semicolons.
- Click on **Save**
- Click on **Save and Close**
- In the exercise messages address To: TSUNAMI-DRILL and all members of the group will be included.

References

- TsunamiZone https://www.tsunamizone.org/knowyourzone/
- Flood Zones https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home
- Tsunami.gov https://www.tsunami.gov/

Task 1: ICS-214 Activity Log

Please maintain an ICS-214 Activity Log and note all your significant actions with corresponding time. Examples are “ 08:45 Station Set Up; 08:50 Sent Winlink Check-in to TSUNAMI; etc.”

ICS-214 Activity Log Form Location

New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > ICS USA Forms > ICS214 Activity Log.txt

You may want to use a spreadsheet or use a text file with tab delineation and then parse the Activities into the Winlink ICS-214 Activity Log.

ICS-214 Instructions

- ☐ Incident Name: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ Operational Period: **The date and time of when you are participating**
- ☐ ICS Position: **ARO**
    - ☐ Stands for Amateur Radio Operator
- ☐ Home Agency or Unit: **(GROUP) Or SOLO**

ICS-214 Pro-Tip

A. To use the Winlink ICS-214 Activity Log:

1. **Start a New Message:** In Winlink, navigate to **New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > ICS USA Forms > ICS214 Activity Log.txt**.
2. **Log Activities:** Enter your activities. Crucially, use the **Save Data** function after each entry to preserve your work.
3. **Note on Navigation:** Be aware that navigating to and filling out other forms will disconnect the ICS-214 from the current Winlink message.
4. **Finalizing and Sending:** When you are ready to conclude your ICS-214:
    - Start a *new* Winlink message.
    - Navigate back to the ICS-214 template.
    - Click **Load Data** at the top of the form and select the most recent text file you saved.
    - The form will populate with your entries.
    - Make any necessary final adjustments.
    - Send the message to **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**.

B. If you prefer using a spreadsheet, organize your log with two columns: "DateTime" and "Activities." Following the exercise, you will input this data into an ICS214 form.

To do this:

1. Navigate to **New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > ICS USA Forms > ICS214 Activity Log.txt**.
2. Copy the data from your spreadsheet.
3. Use the "Parse Data" link within the ICS214 form to import your entries.
4. Make any required adjustments.
5. Send the completed form to **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**.

Task 2: Did-you-feel-it? (DYFI) Report

Scenario

A swarm of very strong earthquakes shakes your region. There is significant damage in poorly built and designed structures, chimneys are damaged across the region. Well built commercial buildings

show slight to moderate damage with broken glass, collapsed shelves and cracks in a few walls. Specially designed buildings have slight damage.

Due to the heavy rainfalls in your region over the last few days, landslides have blocked some rivers and creeks. The earthquake may have weakened those blocks and there is an increasing risk of floods in the low lying areas.

Task Description

Send a DYFI Report with **Exercise ID: TSUNAMI** to USGS and **CC: TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
Report a **Mercalli Intensity of V or higher**.
Reference: https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/modified-mercalli-intensity-scale

In the DYFI **Additional comments** list the following separated by commas
EXERCISE, (GROUP), (BAND), (SESSION), (ADDITIONAL COMMENTS)

- ☐ (GROUP): Your group affiliation, e.g. LAXNORTHEAST. Use SOLO if none.
- ☐ (BAND): the band you are using, e.g. 2m, 140MHz, 40m, etc.
- ☐ (SESSION): the session you are using, e.g. VARA FM, VARA HF, or Pactor, etc
- ☐ (ADDITIONAL COMMENTS): add any additional comment you think USGS may find useful, e.g. “Operating from Central Park in Pasadena with a 10W HF, VHF/UHF radio.”

The Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) questionnaire is optional.

USGS Mercalli Intensity Scale

Use this to guide your DYFI answers.
Source: https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/modified-mercalli-intensity-scale

Scale level	Ground conditions
I. Not felt	Not felt except by very few under especially favorable conditions.
II. Weak	Felt only by a few people at rest, especially on upper floors of buildings. Delicately suspended objects may swing.
III. Weak	Felt quite noticeably by people indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognise it as an earthquake. Standing vehicles may slightly rock. Vibrations are similar to the passing of a truck, with duration estimated.
IV. Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some are awakened. Dishes, windows, and doors are disturbed; walls make cracking sounds. Sensations are like a heavy truck striking a building. Standing vehicles are rocked noticeably.

V. Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes and windows are broken. Unstable objects are overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI. Strong	Felt by all, and many are frightened. Some heavy furniture is moved; a few instances of fallen plaster occur. Damage is slight.
VII. Very strong	Damage is negligible in buildings of good design and construction; but slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; damage is considerable in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys are broken. Noticed by motorists.
VIII. Severe	Damage is slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage is great in poorly built structures. The fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, and walls occur. Heavy furniture is overturned. Sand and mud is ejected in small amounts. Changes occur in well water. Motorists are disturbed.
IX. Violent	Damage is considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures are thrown off-kilter. Damage is great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings are shifted off foundations. Liquefaction occurs. Underground pipes are broken.
X. Extreme	Some well-built wooden structures are destroyed; most masonry and frame structures are destroyed with foundations. Rails are bent. Landslides are considerable from river banks and steep slopes. Sand and mud is shifted. Water is splashed over banks.
XI. Extreme	Few, if any, (masonry) structures remain standing. Bridges are destroyed. Broad fissures erupt in the ground. Underground pipelines are rendered completely out of service. Earth slumps and landslips occur on soft ground. Rails are greatly bent.
XII. Extreme	Damage is total. Waves are seen on ground surfaces. Lines of sight and level are distorted. Objects are thrown upward into the air.

DYFI Instructions

Use the Winlink USGS DYFI form:
New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > USGS > USGS DYFI.txt

- ☐ Exercise ID: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ Date: **Current Date**
- ☐ Time: **Current Time**
- ☐ Felt? **Yes**

- ☐ Address: The **complete street address** of your operating location, e.g. 100 W California Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105
- ☐ Latitude, longitude: Please use the correct **latitude and longitude for your operating location**. You can find your latitude and longitude through Google Maps (https://www.google.com/maps) by right clicking on your location and selecting the latitude, longitude.
- ☐ Questionnaire: Your answers should reflect an **earthquake with Mercalli Intensity V** or higher.
- ☐ Additional Comments: EXERCISE, (GROUP), (BAND), (SESSION), (ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU HAVE)

Note the time and date of your DYFI Message transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Task 3: Winlink Check-in

Scenario

You have sent your DYFI Report and have conducted a 360 degree survey of your property. Your family is safe for now, but a Tsunami Watch has been issued for the coastal areas, Flood Watches and Flash Flood Watches are in effect for the inland areas.

You are checking in with the Amateur Radio Tsunami Exercise Net, which has been set up to monitor the situation on the ground at the tactical address **TSUNAMI**.

Task Description

Send a **Winlink Check-in To: TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**

Comments: In addition to EXERCISE, (GROUP) **copy the bolded parts** and add your answers:

- ☐ **Operational Capabilities:** e.g. HF, VHF/UHF, AREDN, etc.
- ☐ **Deployment Posture:** Mobile / Stationary
  - ☐ Mobile means you are using a Go Kit
  - ☐ Stationary means you are using installed equipment (shack, facility equipment, etc.)
- ☐ **Station in TsunamiZone:** Yes / No
  - ☐ Check TsunamiZone Map
  - ☐ Select your state, then enter your address to check if you are in a hazard zone
  - ☐ https://www.tsunamizone.org/knowyourzone/
- ☐ **Station in area prone to flooding:** Yes / No
  - ☐ Check Fema Flood Map
  - ☐ Enter your address or latitude, longitude to check if you are in a hazard zone at

https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

Winlink Check-in Instructions

Use the Winlink Check-in form:
New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > General Templates> Winlink Check-in.txt

- ☐ Exercise ID: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
- ☐ Date: **Current Date (local)**
- ☐ Time: **Current time (local)**
- ☐ Location: **City, State and Zip**
  - ☐ Example: Pasadena, CA 91105
- ☐ Latitude, longitude: Please use the correct **latitude and longitude for your operating location**.
- ☐ Comments:
  - ☐ line 1: EXERCISE
  - ☐ line 2: (GROUP)
  - ☐ line 3: Operational Capabilities: (operational capabilities)
  - ☐ line 4: Deployment Posture: (Mobile or Stationary)
  - ☐ line 5: Station in Tsunami Zone: (Yes or No)
  - ☐ line 6: Station in area prone to flooding: (Yes or No)

Note the time and date of your Winlink Check-in Message transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Task 4: Welfare Bulletin Message

Scenario

You have sent your check-in. However, now people are flooding local repeaters asking for updates on the well being of friends, family and more. Circuit capacity is strained.
You are avoiding the traffic jam by sending a Welfare Bulletin Board Message to a friend or family member.

Task Description

Your mission is to send a Welfare Bulletin Message and CC yourself, a family member or a friend to update your status.

Please inform your recipient before sending your message that this is an exercise!

Welfare Bulletin Board Message Instructions

Welfare Bulletin Board Message Form Location
New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > CA State Forms > Welfare Bulletin Board > Welfare Bulletin Board Message.txt

- ☐ Incident Name: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
- ☐ From: **Your name and Callsign**
- ☐ Message Type: **EXERCISE**
- ☐ Message Status: **INITIAL**
- ☐ Date/Time Local: Enter the **local date and time** of your report
- ☐ My Status: Select **your status** as you would if there were a tsunami or flood in your area.
  - ☐ SAFE: You are in a safe place
  - ☐ EVACUATING: You are evacuating to a safer area
  - ☐ NEED HELP*: you cannot relocate without outside assistance
  - ☐ *Keep in mind that if you need help in a real event you need to contact 911 first and send the Welfare Message to someone close enough to help you!
- ☐ Message:
  - ☐ Line 1: EXERCISE
  - ☐ Line 2: (GROUP)
  - ☐ Line 3: Any additional information you want others to know. Comments are publicly visible, so do not divulge any information that might be sensitive.
- ☐ Location Information: **City, State and Zip.**
  - ☐ Example: Pasadena, CA 91105
  - ☐ Country is optional, but we recommend adding it. Type “UN” to see the option listing for the UNITED STATES, for example
- ☐ Latitude, longitude: Please use the correct **latitude and longitude for your operating location.**

Note the time and date of your Welfare Bulletin Board Message transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Task 5: ICS-213 General Message

Scenario

You have informed people of your status. Now gain situational awareness for your local emergency response partners and share it.

Task Description

You are tasked with

- ☐ identifying 2 schools in your jurisdiction and their respective addresses
- ☐ checking their flood zone status on the FEMA Flood Zone Lookup using the address from 1., and then
- ☐ sending that information as an **ICS-213 To: TSUNAMI; ETO-DRILL**

Hints

- Use https://www.google.com/maps/ to search for schools.
- Copy and paste the address in the FEMA Flood Zone Lookup.

References

Flood Zones https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

ICS-213 Message Instructions

ICS-213 General Message Form Location
New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > ICS USA Forms > ICS213 General Message.txt

- ☐ THIS IS AN EXERCISE **Check**
- ☐ Incident Name: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
- ☐ From: **Your name and Callsign / ARO**
  - ☐ ARO = Amateur Radio Operator
- ☐ Date: **Current Date (local)**
- ☐ Time: **Current time (local)**
- ☐ Subject: **Flood Zone Risk for Schools in [City, State]**
- ☐ Message:
- ☐ **Line 1: School No.1, address 1, flood zone status 1**
- ☐ **Line 2: School No.2, address 2, flood zone status 2**

- ☐ **Message Example**
  - ☐ 1. Edison Elementary School, 625 Maine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802, in Area with reduced Flood Risk due to Levee.
  - ☐ 2. Westerly School of Long Beach, 2950 E 29th St, Long Beach, CA 90806, in Area of Minimal Flood Risk Hazard
- ☐ **Latitude, longitude:** Please use the correct **latitude and longitude for your operating location.**
- ☐ Approved by: **Use your name and callsign**
- ☐ Position/Title: **ARO**

Note the time and date of your ICS-213 General Message transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Task 6: Bulletin

Scenario

Your emergency manager asks you to

- ☐ Lookup the latest Tsunami Report from NOAA: https://www.tsunami.gov/
- ☐ Send a **Bulletin** to the Amateur Radio Tsunami Exercise Net

Winlink Bulletin Form Location

New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > General Templates> Bulletin.txt

Task Description

- ☐ Go to https://www.tsunami.gov/
- ☐ Scroll down so you can see the table below the map
- ☐ Click on the top link under the Message header in the table. Links look like this “AK/BC/US West Coast Informational #1”
- ☐ Another tab with text only information will open. Copy the text in that window
- ☐ Open a Winlink Bulletin Message
  - ☐ For: **Tsunami Exercise Net**
  - ☐ From: **Your name and callsign**
  - ☐ Bulletin Number: Copy and paste the identifier/first line from the report, e.g. WEAK53 PAAQ 140901
  - ☐ Date/Time: **Current Date/Time**
  - ☐ Precedence: **Routine**
  - ☐ Subject: **TSUNAMI EXERCISE NET BULLETIN - YOURCALL**

- ☐ Message: Add “**THIS IS AN EXERCISE**” then paste your copied message. See example below.
- ☐ Click **Submit**

☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**

Tsunami Bulletin Message example

“THIS IS AN EXERCISE

WEAK53 PAAQ 140901
TIBAK1

Tsunami Information Statement Number 1
NWS National Tsunami Warning Center Palmer AK
1201 AM AKST Sat Feb 14 2026

...THIS IS A TSUNAMI INFORMATION STATEMENT...

EVALUATION
---
* There is NO tsunami danger from this earthquake.

PRELIMINARY EARTHQUAKE PARAMETERS
---

* The following parameters are based on a rapid preliminary assessment of the earthquake and changes may occur.

* Magnitude 4.0
* Origin Time 2359 AKST Feb 13 2026
  0059 PST Feb 14 2026
  0859 UTC Feb 14 2026
* Coordinates 61.7 North 149.6 West
* Depth 14 miles
* Location 20 miles NW of Palmer, Alaska
  35 miles NE of Anchorage, Alaska

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND NEXT UPDATE
---
* Further information will be issued by the United States

Geological Survey (earthquake.usgs.gov) or the appropriate regional seismic network.

* This will be the only U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center message issued for this event unless additional information becomes available.

$$”

Note the time and date of your Bulletin transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Task 7: Winlink Check-out

Scenario

You are checking out with the Amateur Radio Tsunami Exercise Net

Winlink Check-out Form Location

New Message > Select Template > Standard Templates > General Templates> Winlink Check-out.txt

Task Description

Send a **Winlink Check-out To: TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**

Winlink Check-out Instructions

Comments: In addition to EXERCISE, (GROUP) **copy the bolded parts** and add your answers:

- ☐ **Most important thing I have learned in this exercise:** e.g. “my go bag needs work” or “working with ICS-213 message”
- ☐ Exercise ID: **TSUNAMI**
- ☐ To: **TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**
- ☐ Date: **Current Date (local)**
- ☐ Time: **Current time (local)**
- ☐ Location: **City, State and Zip.**
    - ☐ Example: Pasadena, CA 91105
- ☐ Latitude, longitude: Please use the **correct latitude and longitude for your operating location**.
- ☐ Comments:

- ☐ line 1: EXERCISE
- ☐ line 2: (GROUP)
- ☐ line 3: Most important thing I have learned in this exercise: (most important thing)

Note the time and date of your Winlink Check-out Message transmission in your ICS-214 Activity Log.

Wrap-Up

Task 8: ICS-214 Activity Log

Please complete your ICS-214 Activity Log, fill in any missing information and send it **To: TSUNAMI;ETO-DRILL**

Tsunami Exercise Dashboard

You can see the TSUNAMI exercise dashboard at
https://www.laxnortheast.org/exercises/tsunami

Note that the displays for Check-ins & Check-outs, DYFI, ICS-213 and the Welfare Bulletin Board are **separate tabs** at the top of the board.
The board will be updated once every hour.
Reload the website to see the latest information.