

# SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHERN CARIBBEAN INFORMATION NOTE No. 1

AS OF 8:00 AM (AST) ON JANUARY 8, 2020

**The Puerto Rico Seismic Network has reported elevated seismic activity in southern Puerto Rico from 6:32 AM on January 6, 2020.**

**MAGNITUDE RANGE: M 3.89 - 6.4**

**LOCATION: South of Indios, Puerto Rico**

### **WATCHES AND WARNINGS:**

**No watches or warnings of Tsunami surveillance have been issued for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as of 8:00 AM AST on January 8, 2020.**



Seismic Activity to the South of Puerto Rico, January 7, 2020. [PRSN redsismica dd. Jan 7, 2020]

### **Situation**

According to The University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre (UWI SRC), at this time, the main hazard of focus is related to damage from earthquakes, with aftershocks likely to occur in the next few weeks to months. The potential for a larger magnitude event, along the Punta Montalva fault near the southern boundary of Puerto Rico, cannot be excluded that may have the potential to generate a tsunami. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre reported small tsunami waves measuring around 20 centimetres (7.9 inches) were observed to be associated with the M 6.4 event. The SRC acknowledges the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) as the lead seismic monitoring agency for Puerto Rico and advises interests in the region to consult the PRSN for detailed updates on the seismic activity in Puerto Rico.

### **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions**

- Tsunami alerts (watches and warnings) are issued nationally through the National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) within each CDEMA Participating State, further to the interpretation of the information products from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre – the regional tsunami Service Provider.
- CDEMA advises its PSs to continue to monitor the situation in Puerto Rico and to be guided by the alerts received from their respective NTWCs and by the established protocols outlined in their respective tsunami and coastal hazard plans.
- CDEMA and the Regional Response Mechanism Partners will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates if the situation warrants.

**Tsunami Safety Tips** [visit [www.cdema.org](http://www.cdema.org) or [www.ctic.ioc-unesco.org](http://www.ctic.ioc-unesco.org) for more information]



# TSUNAMI SAFETY RULES

1

**ALWAYS BE PREPARED, A TSUNAMI MAY OCCUR ANYTIME**

- Prepare a family emergency plan
- Prepare a safety backpack including medicine and first aid items
- Identify danger zones, assembly locations, designated evacuation routes or the quickest way to reach higher ground safely with the help of your local disaster management officials



2

**IN CASE OF AN EARTHQUAKE PROTECT YOURSELF**

- Drop
- Cover
- Hold on



**DROP**



**COVER**



**HOLD**

3

**RUN TO HIGH GROUND IF ANY OF THESE WARNING SIGNS OCCUR AT THE COAST**

- FEEL a very strong or long earthquake (it is difficult to walk, there are falling objects, damage to structures, earthquake lasts for about 1 minute or more)
- SEE a sudden rise or fall (exposing the ocean floor, reefs and fish) of the sea level
- HEAR a strange or loud noise (can be a roar) coming from the sea, or receive official tsunami warning messages by siren, radio, television, commercial radio or emergency alert radios



4

**MOVE AWAY FROM HAZARDOUS AREAS (IN PREFERENCE ORDER DEPENDING ON YOUR LOCATION OR SITUATION)**

- Run away from the coast to an assembly point or higher ground
- Go to the third floor of a building or higher
- Climb a tree
- If time permits, vessels should navigate offshore to waters 100-400 meters deep



5

**STAY IN THE SAFE AREA UNTIL LOCAL AUTHORITIES INDICATE THAT THE DANGER HAS PASSED, THIS MAY TAKE MANY HOURS**



www.bb.undp.org





www.ctic.ioc-unesco.org



www.weready.org



www.tsunami.gov



www.cimh.edu.bb

Contributing Sources: US NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program, the Puerto Rico Seismic Network, MCDEM New Zealand and the International Tsunami Information Center