



Contact: Julie Toledo (714) 536-5577
Julie.Toledo@surfcity-hb.org
Media Alert, 3/17/14

Huntington Beach Emergency Services to Prepare Residents for Tsunami Drill

- *City to test AlertOC system and conduct the first Tsunami Walk and Preparedness Fair*
-

Who: The City of Huntington Beach, in conjunction with National Tsunami Preparedness Week will participate in testing the city's ability to communicate with residents in the tsunami inundation zone with two events.

What: First, the city will test the AlertOC notification system to check its capability to communicate with residents in a timely manner. If this was a real tsunami warning, residents would be provided with critical information and may be instructed to drive, bus or walk out of the Tsunami Evacuation Zone. In addition, to the AlertOC test, residents living within the tsunami evacuation zone are encouraged to participate in the first ever Tsunami Walk – a drill that stresses simplicity and fun.

When: **AlertOC Test:** **March 24, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.** to residents within the tsunami zone.

Tsunami Walk: **March 27, 2014, at 9 a.m.** for residents in the tsunami evacuation zone. Residents are encouraged to meet at Harbour View Park located at the corner of Saybrook Lane and Heil Avenue. We will then walk to a designated safe zone where additional tsunami education material will be available.

Tsunami Fair: **March 27, 2014 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** at Wieder Park 19251 Seapoint Ave.

Where: For the Tsunami Walk, residents will be escorted by city staff/volunteers as they evacuate from Harbor View Park to Wieder Park in the north end of the city. Participants will discover that there are tsunami danger zones and tsunami safe areas throughout the city and that they can walk from one to the other. It is important that residents learn how easy it can be to leave the hazard zone. Once arriving at Wieder Park, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the tsunami threat, and general disaster preparedness at the Tsunami Preparedness Fair.

Contact: For more information visit www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/prepareHB or call the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office at 714-536-5979. For more information visit www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/prepareHB or call 714-374-1565.

Background:

On March 27, 1964, a magnitude 9.2 earthquake struck the coast of Alaska that lasted nearly three minutes and took 130 lives. As a result of the earthquake, a massive tsunami struck Alaska and the west coast and caused damage to the Huntington Harbour. More recently, as a result of the 2011 Tohoku (Japan) Earthquake, multiple west coast harbors received damage and Huntington Harbour had significant tidal surges that could have been detrimental had it happened at high tide. This year, the City of Huntington Beach continues its efforts to focus on tsunami preparedness and planning by participating in National Tsunami Preparedness Week.

###