

City of Cordova



ANNEX B: WARNING

Purpose

The purpose of this annex is to receive, record, and transmit Watch and Warning information to the officials and residents of Cordova to prevent loss of life and minimize damage caused by a disaster. It is likely, that if the warning system is used, it will be for a tsunami. The annex is written with an emphasis on tsunami warnings, but the concepts are the same for any warning.

Situation

The hazard analysis for Cordova indicates numerous potential hazards that may indicate a City-wide warning.

- Cordova is a coastal community and tsunamis are a potential threat. Many homes are in the tsunami zone, and much of Cordova's critical infrastructure is located in tsunami zones.
- Other hazards that may threaten the City and activate a warning are encroaching severe weather or winds, approaching volcanic ashfall, or approaching nuclear fallout.
- There is currently one siren in Cordova, with plans to add three more.
- CVFD trains to warn citizens in the tsunami zone door-to-door, if necessary.

Assumptions

- The warning siren(s) will be maintained and tested weekly.
- Door-to-door evacuation drills will be practiced regularly.
- The Tsunami Ready program will be established and adhered to.
- All efforts will be made by the City to erect the remaining (tsunami) warning sirens in a timely fashion.

Limitations

- It is not known whether there will be sufficient time to warn residents in the event of a tsunami, even with the tsunami voice warning system.
- At present, only one of the four (4) tsunami sirens has been successfully erected and tested.
- Evacuation route signs, from the tsunami inundation zone, are not yet installed in Cordova.

Concept of Operations

Receipt of Warning

- If an earthquake occurs, which is of sufficient magnitude and in such a location that a tsunami could be generated, the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, Palmer, Alaska, will issue a Tsunami Watch or a Tsunami Warning over the Emergency Alert System. If the earthquake is in the Pacific and/or remote Alaskan waters, the Honolulu Observatory will issue the warning. The warning will be disseminated over the Warning System by one of these agencies and State Control will call the roll of the Alaskan Coastal Stations (received in Cordova Dispatch), to make sure each station has received the warning. In the event that a station does not answer a roll call, contact will be established by radio, telephone, or other appropriate means. Coastal communities not on the Warning System will be notified by a community in the area which is on the System by the most expeditious means. Attempts to notify the villages of Tatilek and Chenega will be by Cordova Dispatch via telephone. Attempts to notify Canoe Pass residents and Boswell Bay residents will be via telephone or VHF FM radio (through the marine operator). In order to notify isolated hatcheries in Prince William Sound, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation will be notified by Dispatch via telephone (or runner). They will, in turn, notify their hatchery personnel.

- If severe weather or winds are approaching, NOAA will issue a warning, which is monitored by Dispatch and the Harbor Master. Those warnings will be disseminated by Dispatch to Cordova, Tatilek, Chenega, Canoe Pass, Boswell Bay, and the hatcheries (via Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation).
- School officials also monitor the NOAA weather radios, one in each facility.
- In the event of a volcanic ash fallout, Dispatch will be notified by Emergency Alert System and disseminated by Dispatch to Cordova, Tatilek, Chenega, Canoe Pass, Boswell Bay, and warning the hatcheries(via Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation).
- In the event of a nuclear fallout, Dispatch will be notified by Emergency Alert System and notice will be disseminated by Dispatch to Cordova, Tatilek, Chenega, Canoe Pass, Boswell Bay, and the hatcheries (again, via Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation).
- Cordova has numerous Amateur Ham Radio Operators. Should all other communications be ineffective, and Dispatch has not received the warning, Ham Radio Operators will receive the Warnings and send a message, via runner, to Dispatch.

******See REFERENCES for a copy of the warning Call-out Roster***

Dissemination of Warning

The warning will come directly to Cordova Dispatch. When warning is received, the Dispatcher will follow the procedures outlined below:

- Dispatch determines whether an immediate warning needs to be disseminated and has the authority to issue the warning.
- Immediately pass the information, exactly as received, to the City Manager/Incident Commander. The City Manager/Incident Commander also has the authority to determine when a warning shall be issued.
- If the arrival time of a tsunami/other catastrophic event is estimated to be within a relatively short time, for example less than two hours, Dispatch or the IC will order all agencies/individuals on the notification list to be notified (by Dispatch) and the siren activated with the Warning Signal, along with the appropriate message.
- If estimated arrival time of the tsunami/other catastrophic event is several hours (or more) away, the IC will determine when to alert the agencies on the list and in what manner.
- The primary means of notification to the public will be voice enhanced siren signals, which will be backed up by commercial radio (radio station KLAM/KCDV) and Cordova GCI Channel 1 notification. Dispatch will be responsible to notify each entity, as well as activating the sirens.

- Secondary means of disseminating the warning is by a door-to-door evacuation plan implemented by the Cordova Volunteer Fire Department, assisted by the Harbor Department. The Harbor Department will assist by evacuating the harbor areas. Any PA systems available in public vehicles will also be used to warn citizens.

Execution for Tsunami Warnings

- Originally, only areas 100 feet or more above high water or one mile inland were safe from a tsunami. In Cordova, that means areas east of Second Street and north of Adams Avenue were safe. Areas in the vicinity of Eyak Lake were unlikely to receive damage from a tsunami. However, an Army Corp of Engineers report estimated a run-up of 28.5 feet due to surrounding shallow water and island protection. People working or living in other areas must be evacuated to these safe areas prior to the estimated arrival of a wave.
- Radio and T.V. notices, loud speaker systems, and/or door-to-door notifications will instruct the residents who are in the lower areas to proceed to safe areas at or above the level of First Street. Dispatch has pre-scripted EAS messages for local identified hazards.
- “Stay Puts” (those residents unwilling to evacuate) will be contacted by Cordova Police.
- The requirement to remain in a safe area is for a relatively short time; therefore, it is not necessary to plan for support of the population evacuated to these areas unless severe weather conditions create a need for shelter from the elements. Mt. Eccles Elementary School will be used as an initial evacuation site, if necessary.

Execution for All Other Warnings

- Radio and T.V. notices, loud speaker systems, and/or door-to-door notifications will instruct the residents what to do or where to go when a disaster is imminent.

Minimum Warning

- Should a severe earthquake occur in the water areas in the vicinity of Cordova, it is possible that it could generate a tsunami which would hit the community before the Tsunami Warning Center could determine the location and the intensity of the disturbance. It is likely that an earthquake of the intensity required to generate a tsunami occurring near Cordova would be felt by the residents. The public is therefore informed that if a quake is felt which threatens to knock them down, and continues for fifteen seconds or longer, they should immediately proceed to a safe area without waiting for official notification.

Warning for Special Needs Populations

- If the threat occurs during school hours, families will be notified by the school through Cordova School District standard emergency notification protocols.
- Cordova Family Resource Center is responsible to contact special needs populations in town, including Sunset View Apartments, the elderly, the homebound, and the physically challenged. A “Disaster Registry” volunteer sign-up list of the special needs population will be established by the Emergency Management Coordinator and kept in the Emergency Resource Manual (in Dispatch), for that purpose. An additional list will be given to Cordova Family Resource Center.
- The Chamber of Commerce will be notified, by Dispatch, of the threat, and the Chamber will then notify local businesses.
- Tourists will be notified by sirens.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The person who has overall responsibility for Warning is the Dispatcher. The Dispatcher will issue the warning, immediately page out CVFD, and then contact the City Manager/Incident Commander.

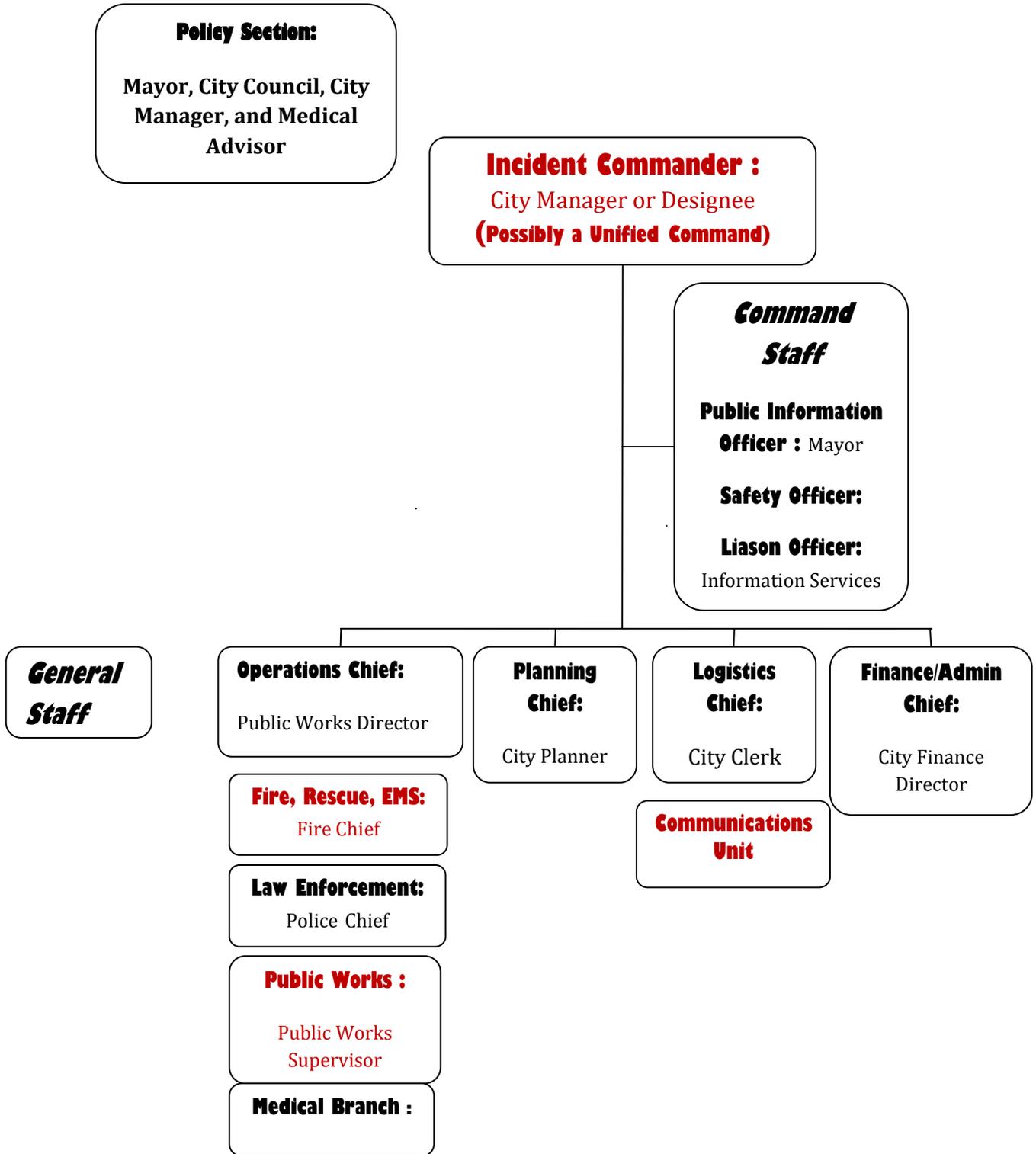
- When the decision is made to warn the community, the Incident Commander and Incident Management Team (IMT) will be contacted, via telephone or messenger. The IMT will take action to notify and mobilize the appropriate organizations which they are responsible for coordinating. This will be accomplished through telephones, pagers, or messengers, as appropriate.

******See TAB 1 of this annex***

- Call-up rosters are available in Dispatch, in the Logistics Brown Box, and in the Fire Marshal’s office (in the Emergency Management Manual). They will be updated as needed, at least annually, by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Organizational Chart for Warning

***RED indicates activation of that entity for WARNING



Specific responsibilities for the following jobs are found in the Position Checklist. The abbreviation for each job is found in the table below.

Incident Commander	IC
Operations Section Chief	OSC
Dispatch	DIS
Police Department	PD
Cordova Volunteer Fire Department	CVFD
Harbor Department	HAR
Fire Marshal	FM
Cordova School District	CSD
Cordova Family Resource Center	CFRC
Emergency Management Coordinator	EMC

POSITION CHECKLIST: WARNING

***If it is a PRIMARY responsibility, it will be in **BOLD and underlined**

Responsibility/Task	<u>Who is Responsible?</u>
PREPARATION	
Maintain a personnel roster for call-out procedures and update annually	<u>EMC</u>
Roster call-out lists will be called/tested annually	<u>DIS</u>
Maintain/update the volunteer Disaster Registry, identifying special needs citizens	<u>EMC</u>
Warning sirens will be maintained regularly and tested weekly	<u>FM</u>
Warning messages will be pre-scripted and updated annually	<u>EMC</u>
Review assignments of all personnel and brief those who will have emergency tasks to perform	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Have vital equipment in the condition necessary for warning procedures	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>

RESPONSE	
Receive warning information	<u>DIS</u>
Determine need and timeframe to warn citizens	<u>DIS</u>
Disseminate warning in English, Spanish , and Tagalog, if necessary	<u>DIS</u>
Notify CVFD, City Manager, and IMT immediately, if warranted	<u>DIS</u>
Initiate door-to-door warning	<u>CVFD, HAR,PD</u>
Prepare for and receive short-term evacuees	<u>CSD</u>
Repeat warning for “stay-puts”, if time warrants and it is safe enough	<u>PD</u>
Notify DHS&EM of possible evacuation and State assistance required to support the evacuation	<u>IC</u>
Refer to <u>Annex E: Evacuation and Shelter in Place</u> , if warranted	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Coordinate traffic and perimeter control, as well as security for the evacuation area	<u>PD</u>
Procure the volunteer “Disaster Registry” for special needs population groups and warn them. Patients and Long-Term-Care residents at the Cordova Community Medical Center may require ambulance transportation	<u>IC</u>
Provide Situation Leader with the current status of Warning operations/resources	<u>OSC</u>
Maintain records accurately, including using NIMS logs daily (ICS Form 214)	<u>UNIT LEADERS</u>
RECOVERY	
Prepare emergency public information about procedures to follow in the recovery phase	<u>PIO</u>
Take actions necessary to restore public confidence	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Restock supplies and equipment used in the event and return any equipment obtained from other agencies after proper cleaning/inspection	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Submit an itemized list of all damaged equipment and supplies Finance/Administration Section	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Perform a post-incident briefing and an incident critique	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>
Complete and submit necessary reports and paperwork to appropriate agencies	<u>ALL ENTITIES</u>