



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
300 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501-6000
March 21, 2013

Dear Manila Community Member,

I am writing to update you on important earthquake and tsunami preparedness efforts in Manila and to announce an upcoming **tsunami evacuation drill scheduled for Saturday, April 13**. Please see the included materials for a description of the tsunami evacuation drill and other upcoming events.

Evacuation routes and evacuation sites: Draft evacuation routes have been designed to get your family to high ground as quickly and safely as possible in the event of a tsunami.

The evacuation routes are designed for pedestrian evacuation during the type of event where the roads are destroyed by the earthquake. Note that some of the routes pass under the high power lines. Fortunately, PG&E has evaluated the power line towers and they concluded that the towers will not fall down during a major earthquake. Copies of their letter will be available for your review at the community events and evacuation drill.

Signs: We have identified locations for evacuation signs to help guide you to the evacuation sites. Temporary signs will be installed for the tsunami drill on April 13. Please provide feedback on the signs after the drill and we will incorporate your input before installing permanent signs.

Siren: Manila has a tsunami siren that we will be testing on March 27th at 11:00 a.m. We will also be using it for the evacuation drill on April 13. **PLEASE NOTE, IN THE EVENT OF A LARGE LOCAL EARTHQUAKE, GROUND SHAKING LASTING LONGER THAN 20 SECONDS WILL BE YOUR WARNING, NOT THE SIREN!**

Informational material: An informational brochure has been developed that explains the tsunami threat in Manila and provides the information you need to protect your family. A copy of the brochure is included.

The only effective way to protect Manila from tsunamis is through education and planning. If you know what to do in the event of natural or official tsunami warnings, you will survive the next tsunami. Your input is essential for the tsunami plan to work in the event of a real tsunami. Please provide feedback as we move forward with our planning, and we encourage you to participate in the important tsunami evacuation drill on April 13.

Sincerely,

Troy Nicolini
NOAA's National Weather Service
(707) 443-0574 x223

Attachments:

1. Tsunami evacuation drill instructions (on the back of this sheet)
2. Evacuation route map and information sheet about upcoming events
3. Tsunami Education Brochure for Manila

Manila Tsunami Evacuation Drill

10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 13

The event

You will practice for the type of tsunami that could be generated by a major earthquake just off the coast from Manila. The ground shaking from this earthquake will last for at least 20 seconds, and likely longer. Ground shaking will cause damage to roads, making them difficult or impossible to drive on. The first tsunami waves would arrive in less than 15 minutes. In a real event of this type, the earthquake is your warning because there would be no time to turn on the siren. We'll be using the siren to initiate the drill because we can't fake an earthquake.

Please assume the roads would be destroyed and therefore evacuate on foot for the drill.

The purpose of the drill

It offers you and your family an opportunity to practice evacuating to high ground on foot to ensure that you can do so quickly and safely. ***You and your family will feel safer after you practice your evacuation.***

Tsunami Drill Timeline

Tuesday, March 26 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	1 st Manila Community Meeting to prepare for April evacuation drill and to learn how to survive earthquakes and tsunamis. Manila Community Center, 1611 Peninsula Dr, Manila. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. (same meeting as April 12 – attend whichever one is convenient)
Friday, April 12 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	2 nd Manila Community Meeting to prepare for April evacuation drill and to learn how to survive earthquakes and tsunamis. Manila Community Center, 1611 Peninsula Dr, Manila. Free spaghetti dinner will be provided. (same meeting as March 26 – attend whichever one is convenient)
10:00 a.m. Saturday April 13	The tsunami siren will be activated for 3 minutes. You may not hear it inside your home, or if you are far from the siren (located by the Community Services District).

* The siren will also be used for the Wednesday March 27 Tsunami Communication Test. This is only a test and no evacuation is necessary.

What you should do before the drill

1. Review the enclosed brochure.
2. Study the evacuation route map to make sure you are familiar with the best route for your location.
3. Consider walking the routes with your family before the drill to decide which one works best for you.
4. Discuss your emergency plan with your family.
5. Prepare an evacuation bag to be kept near your door (flash light, critical medications, etc.).
6. Consider how you are going to evacuate pets – dogs on leashes and cats in crates.
7. Prearrange assistance from neighbors if you need help evacuating.
8. Put your address on the enclosed evaluation form.

What you should do during the drill

1. When you hear the siren, please WALK to the evacuation site at the end of your preferred evacuation route. **If you don't hear the siren, please evacuate anyway, starting at 10:00 a.m.**
2. At the evacuation site, your arrival time will be recorded on an evaluation form (provided at the evacuation site). Additional informational material will be available at the evacuation site and experts will be available to answer your questions.
3. Please take a few moments to fill out the evaluation form to help us identify if any changes are needed to the evacuation routes or sign locations.

Remember:

Manila's siren will usually be used only when official tsunami warnings have been issued for our area. Normally when you hear the siren, you should check your TV or radio to get information about the tsunami threat and to find out what action local officials are advising. FOR THIS DRILL, we are telling you ahead of time that we want you to evacuate on foot immediately – as if you detected a natural warning like an earthquake. ***In a real event, you may not hear a siren: Evacuate if you feel a long earthquake, without waiting for a siren.***