



Contact: Matt Ocana
801-524-5692 ext 226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 17, 2008

**National Weather Service to Conduct
Limited Tsunami Warning Communications Test Along U.S. West Coast**

NOAA's National Weather Service will conduct a limited communications test of the tsunami warning system in the coastal areas of California, Oregon, and Washington on Wed., Sept. 24, between 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

The West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, located in Palmer, Alaska, will broadcast a special test tsunami warning message, clearly labeled as a test. Upon receipt of the test message, National Weather Service offices responsible for western coastal areas will broadcast a brief message via NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards describing the purpose of the test, using the required monthly test code. The actual tsunami warning code will not be used for this test. Officials will evaluate the success of the test and correct any problems.

If there is excessive seismic activity on that date, the test will be cancelled.

Media outlets responsible for relaying emergency information may relay the test information. The general public can participate in the test by monitoring NOAA Weather Radio and providing feedback online at <http://www.weather.gov/tsunamitest.php>.

NOAA Weather Radios are available at many electronic retail stores, marine supply stores, mail order catalogs and the Internet. Prices vary by model and available options, but they typically range between \$20 and \$80.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the web:

NOAA's West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center: <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov>

NOAA Tsunami portal: <http://www.tsunami.noaa.gov/>