

SOUTH CAROLINA TSUNAMI RESPONSE PLAN

APPENDIX 11 ATTACHMENT A

ATTACHMENT A - Acronyms and Glossary

Amplitude: The rise above or drop below the ambient water level as read on a tide gauge.

AOR: Area of Responsibility. Each Tsunami Warning Center is given an area of responsibility to provide tsunami information and warning messages to its area-of-responsibility (AOR).

Arrival Time: Time of arrival, usually of the first wave of the tsunami, at a particular location.

Crest: The high-point, peak or top of a wave.

Earthquake: The sudden, sometimes violent movement of the earth's surface (and ocean floor) from the release of energy in the earth's crust. Earthquakes are often caused by slip along a sloping fault where the rock above the fault moves downward relative to the rock below. The most common type of earthquake source of damaging tsunamis is the 'thrust' earthquake, caused by slip along a gently sloping fault where the rock above the fault is pushed upward relative to the rock below.

Inundation: The depth, relative to a stated reference level, to which a particular location is covered by water.

Inundation Area: An area that is flooded with water.

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a line office of the Department of Commerce and parent agency of the National Weather Service.

Period: The length of time between two successive peaks or troughs. Tsunami periods generally range from 5 to 60 minutes.

Run-up: Maximum height of the water onshore observed above a reference sea level. Usually measured at the horizontal inundation limit.

Subduction Zone: A subduction zone is the place where two plates come together, one riding over the other. Tsunamis can be generated when the sea floor abruptly deforms and vertically displaces the overlying water.

Tidal Wave: Common term for tsunami used in older literature, historical descriptions, and popular accounts. Tides, caused by the gravitational attractions of the sun and moon, may increase or decrease the impact of a tsunami, but have nothing to do with their formation or movement. However, most tsunamis (initially) give the appearance of a fast-rising or fast-ebbing tide as they approach shore, and only rarely appear as a near-vertical wall of water.

Travel Time: Time (usually measured in hours and tenths of hours) that it took the tsunami to travel from the source to a particular location.

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Trough: The low-point, or bottom of a wave. The depression between wave crests.

Vertical Evacuation: Evacuation from one floor(s) to the floor(s) below or above. In the case of a tsunami threat this shelter-in-place option would involve evacuating persons to the upper floors of a substantial structure.