



City of Port Hueneme

August 17, 2007

Alyce O. Klussman, Foreman
Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#3751
Ventura, CA 93009

Honorable Colleen Toy White, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
800 South Victoria Avenue, #2120
Ventura, CA 93009

RECEIVED

AUG 21 2007

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Re: Ventura County 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report, "Ventura County Disaster Evacuation Plan"

The City Council of the City of Port Hueneme has reviewed the above-captioned Grand Jury Report and presents the following responses to Recommendations R-01, R-06, and R-10, as requested.

Recommendation R-01: *VC OES and the VCDC should work with the ten cities in the County to facilitate development of coordinated and integrated emergency evacuation plans for each of these communities. These plans should include how the public and emergency service providers are to be informed of an alert and what their responses should be. These local plans need to recognize that the VC OES is the chief disaster coordinator in the County; the plans need to be readily available to the public.*

Response: Concur

The City of Port Hueneme works with the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services (VC OES) and the Ventura County Disaster Council (VCDC) on the development of coordinated and integrated emergency evacuation plans in the City of Port Hueneme, and these plans recognize the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services as the chief disaster coordinator in the County; however, each city is responsible for its own tsunami plans and evacuation routes.

The City of Port Hueneme received "Storm Ready" certification in 2000 and we were re-certified in 2003 and 2006. Our next re-certification will be in September 2009.

Our tsunami plans are outlined in a brochure to be made available at the City Hall main counter, Police Department, Community Storefront, and on the City's website. Please see Recommendation R-06 and R-10 for additional information concerning local plans and their availability to the Public.

Recommendation R-06: *Any evacuation plans developed by VC OES and the cities or special districts in Ventura County should be publicized and widely distributed. A user-friendly brochure detailing preparedness actions and evacuation routes should be developed for distribution to all residents in the County. As maps and plans are updated, the changes should be similarly publicized.*

Response: Concur

The City has produced and distributed a tsunami brochure with information pertinent to our residents. It was updated in July 2007 to include maps and descriptions of the evacuation routes and will be ready for distribution this month. The brochure will be available at City Hall, the Police Department, the National Night Out event on August 7, and on the City's website by the end of August 2007.

In addition, the County is currently working on inputting all available County residential and business phone numbers, including known cell numbers, into a "Reverse 911" system, anticipated to be fully operational by October, 2007. For example, in the case of a tsunami emergency in Port Hueneme, Reverse 911 will dial all phone numbers in the City with notification and instructions on evacuation.

The City of Port Hueneme continues to educate the public by supplying emergency preparedness information and coordinating with emergency preparedness committees in neighborhoods such as the newly-formed Hueneme Bay Emergency Preparedness Committee. Community events like National Night Out and the Hueneme Beach Festival are other platforms for providing emergency preparedness information. We also use our website and our informational Hueneme Magazine as additional media outlets for this information.

Recommendation R-10: *Ventura County, as well as all coastal cities in the County, should meet required standards to obtain "Tsunami Ready" certification from the National Weather Service.*

Response: Concur

“Tsunami Ready” certification requires that the City establish/designate a tsunami shelter in a safe zone or designate tsunami evacuation areas for inundation zones, identify evacuation routes, and install evacuation route signs. The certification also requires distributing locally specific tsunami hazard response material to the public, conducting tsunami awareness campaigns, and encouraging schools to implement a tsunami hazard curriculum, perform practice evacuation drills, and provide safety material to staff and students.

To date, the City of Port Hueneme and its Police Department have:

- Produced a tsunami brochure and placed the information on the City’s website. However, evacuation route maps will be added to the City’s website before the end of August 2007.
- Conducted two Town Hall Meetings on Emergency Preparedness with a special emphasis on tsunamis.
- Met with Hueneme School District officials and discussed their plans for school evacuations and practice drills.
- Conducted an Emergency Preparedness presentation at a Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting.
- Conducted emergency preparedness training at Neighborhood Watch meetings throughout the City.

Still required for certification:

- Identify funding to purchase and install tsunami signage for the inundation areas, evacuation routes, and shelter/safe zones. The City is experiencing a structural financial deficit, and funds have not been budgeted in FY 2007-08 for this purpose. The City will work with VC OES and others to identify grant funding.
- Put our evacuation route maps on the City website by the date noted above.
- Identify funding for additional warning and notification system(s), such as sirens.
- Continue the public education of our community using as many venues as possible.
- Consider some kind of sector evacuation drill, which would require identifying a particular geographical area and conduct a practice evacuation drill in that area to see how the plan works.

Completion of the requirements for Tsunami Ready certification is partially dependent on available funding. According to the National Weather Service, the most important item to complete in our City's quest for certification is signage. At this time, City staff is obtaining quotes from vendors for the signs. Once funding is identified and the signs are purchased, the National Weather Service and State OES will conduct an inspection to verify signage, forward the information to Washington D.C. for approval, and we will receive certification. The City of Port Hueneme anticipates obtaining certification by April 2008.

If there are any further questions regarding this response, please contact Police Chief Fernando Estrella at (805) 986-6531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maricela Morales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Maricela Morales
Mayor

Att: City of Port Hueneme Tsunami Information Brochure

c: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Chief of Police

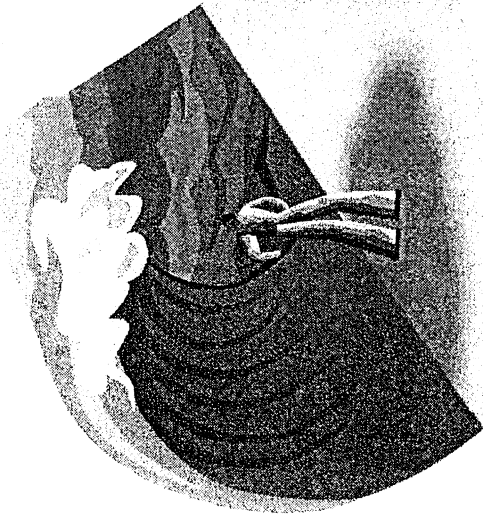


PORT HUENEME POLICE DEPARTMENT

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<http://www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us>

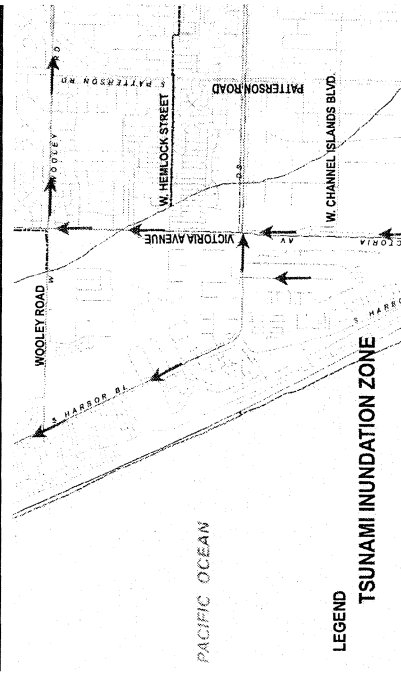
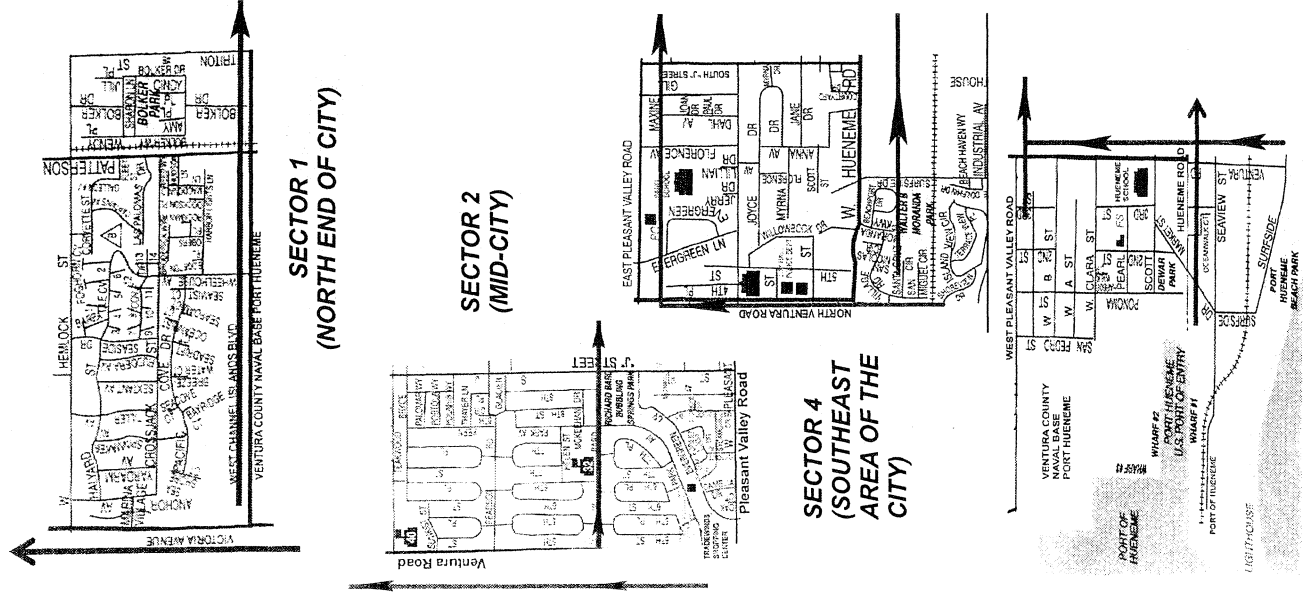
**CITIES OF PORT HUENEME & OXNARD
 TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE & EVACUATION
 ROUTES MAPS**

TSUNAMI



HOW TO SURVIVE THE HAZARDOUS CALIFORNIA'S COAST

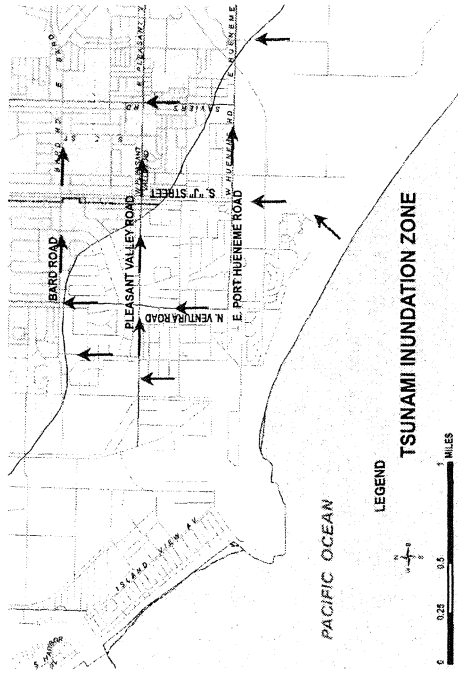
**CITY OF PORT HUENEME
 EVACUATION ROUTES
 (RED ARROWS INDICATE PRIMARY ROUTE)**



EVACUATION ROUTES:

- **PRIMARY:** Move to Hueneme Road, proceed east on Hueneme Road.
- **SECONDARY:** North to Pleasant Valley Road, east on Pleasant Valley.
- **DESTINATION:** Oxnard College

For more detailed information on evacuation routes, go to "TSUNAMI" in NEWS & INFORMATION on City Website



LEGEND
 TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE

PACIFIC OCEAN

0 0.25 0.5 1 MILES