

Tsunami Warning and Education Act

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (National Weather Service)

Citation: [33 U.S.C. §§ 3201 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Tsunami Warning and Education Act”, on January 12, 2007 as title VIII of [Public Law 109-479](#) (a similar section was enacted by [Public Law 109-424](#) on December 20, 2006)

Summary:

The [Tsunami Warning and Education Act \(TWEA or Act\)](#) was enacted to improve tsunami detection, forecasting, warnings, notification, outreach, and mitigation to protect life and property in the United States. The Act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) to operate a program to provide tsunami detection, forecasting, and warnings for the Pacific and Arctic Ocean regions and for the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico region. Under TWEA, NWS is required to develop requirements for the equipment used to forecast tsunamis, develop and execute a plan for the transfer of technology from ongoing research, and ensure that maintaining operational tsunami detection equipment is the highest priority within the tsunami forecasting and warning program at NOAA.

TWEA requires the NOAA Administrator to notify Congress within 30 days of: (1) impaired regional forecasting capabilities due to equipment or system failures; and (2) significant contractor failures or delays in completing work associated with the tsunami forecasting and warning system. An annual certification regarding the status of the program’s equipment must be transmitted to the agency’s oversight committees.

Under TWEA, NOAA is required to improve and increase education and outreach activities and ensure that persons receiving tsunami warnings and in the at-risk public know what to do when a tsunami is approaching. The Act also calls for improved federal, state, and international coordination for detection, warnings, and outreach for tsunamis and other coastal impacts.

Source: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title33/pdf/USCODE-2011-title33-chap45.pdf> and <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41686.pdf>

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