



**Acronym:** PTWC  
**Full Name:** NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
**Website:** [www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/)  
**Established:** 1968  
**Location:** Hawai'i

**Areas of expertise:** Warning for Pacific basin teletsunamis and tsunamis.

**Main Partners and collaborations:** Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC), NOAA, West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC).

**Short Description:**

After the 1960 Chilean earthquake and tsunami, the nations of the Pacific decided to coordinate efforts to prevent the loss of life and damages in the Pacific Basin due to destructive ocean-crossing tsunamis. Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) established the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System (ICG/PTWS) in 1968.

PTWC was re-dedicated on December 1, 2001 as the "Richard H. Hagemeyer Pacific Tsunami Warning Center" in honour of the former U.S. Tsunami Program Manager and National Weather Service Pacific Region Director who managed PTWC for many years.

**Main activities:**

PTWC provides warnings for Pacific basin teletsunamis (tsunamis that can cause damage far away from their source) to almost every country around the Pacific Rim and to most of the Pacific island states. This function is carried out under the auspices of the UNESCO/IOC International Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning System. Also, PTWC provides a more rapid warning for local tsunamis generated in Hawaiian waters.

PTWC is the interim warning center for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System, to countries in the Caribbean Sea and to nations bordering the South China Sea (China, Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam).

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**Source:** NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center