



DRILLS, EXERCISES, TRAININGS

HISTORY: 2008 OPERATION HIGHER GROUND

On February 7, 13, and 20, 2008, the Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office, Office of Emergency Management (LAC OEM) conducted an Operational Area-wide functional exercise called Operation Higher Ground. This exercise allowed participants to exercise the 2007 approved Los Angeles County [Tsunami Annex](#).

During the exercise, the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) activated all three of its CEOC teams, County departments in addition to a number of cities that also activated its Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs).

The Operation Higher Ground scenarios were divided into three components identified as Alert, Warning and Response and Recovery. The exercise's scenario centered on an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit the simulated Kuril Islands located between Northern Japan and Kamchatka Peninsula that took place on the Fourth of July at 8:30 a.m. The earthquake generated a tsunami that was heading towards the West Coast of the United States.

The first day of the exercise, the first tsunami wave hits the Los Angeles County coastline as waves continued to pound to shoreline areas. An "All Clear" was issued and preliminary damage assessments began during the second day of the exercise. The last day of the exercise, evacuated areas were assessed for re-entry by health and safety agencies.

The February exercises were preceded by five exercise-related workshops for County EOC staff, city emergency management personnel, and members of the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness (BICEPP).

2008 Operation Higher Ground Photographs (February 7, 2008)



2008 Operation Higher Ground Photographs (February 13, 2008)

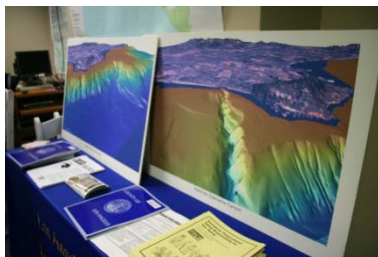


2008 Operation Higher Ground Photographs (February 20, 2008)





**2008 Operation Higher Ground Press Conference Photographs
(February 20, 2008)**



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