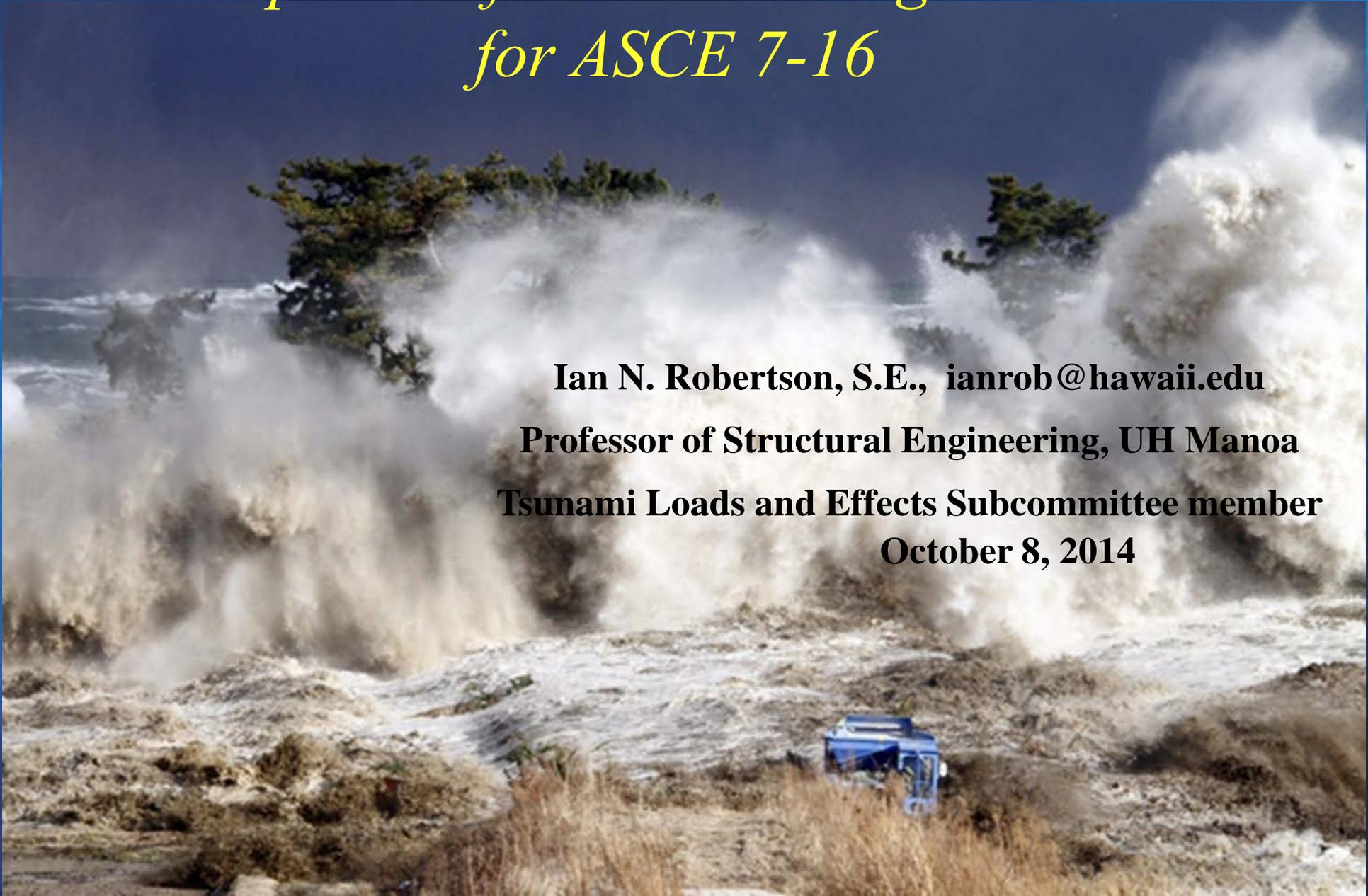


# *Development of Tsunami Design Provisions for ASCE 7-16*

**Ian N. Robertson, S.E., [ianrob@hawaii.edu](mailto:ianrob@hawaii.edu)  
Professor of Structural Engineering, UH Manoa  
Tsunami Loads and Effects Subcommittee member  
October 8, 2014**



# Background Information on the Development of a Tsunami Code

TLESC chair: Gary Chock <gchock@martinchock.com>

- A U.S. national standard for engineering design for tsunami effects does not exist. Tsunami risk to coastal zone construction is not explicitly addressed in design.
- FEMA P646 Guidelines for Vertical Tsunami Evacuation Refuge structures:
  - First Edition in 2008 was very conservative for debris strikes and unconservative for flow depth and velocities and hydrodynamic loadings.
  - Revised in 2012 as Second Edition to improve debris impact loads.
  - Not a consensus-based document, and not written in mandatory language.

# Background Information on the Development of a Tsunami Code

- The Tsunami Loads and Effects Subcommittee of the ASCE/SEI 7 Standards Committee was authorized in February 2011 – Chair: Gary Chock
- TLESC has developed a new Chapter 6 - Tsunami Loads and Effects for the ASCE 7-16 Standard, which has passed and is pending approval.
- ASCE 7-16 to be published by March 2016
- Tsunami Provisions would be referenced in IBC 2018
- State Building Codes of AK, WA, OR, CA, & HI ~ 2020
- ASCE will be publishing a design guide in 2015 with design examples.

# ASCE 7-10

- Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures
- Referenced by IBC and therefore most US jurisdictions



# ASCE 7-10

## Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures

- Chap 1 & 2 – General and load combinations
- Chap 3 - Dead, soil and hydrostatic loads
- Chap 4 - Live loads
- Chap 5 - Flood loads (riverine and storm surge)
- Chap 6 - Vacant
- Chap 7 - Snow loads
- Chap 8 - Rain loads
- Chap 10 - Ice loads
- Chap 11 – 23 - Seismic Design
- Chap 26 – 31 - Wind Loads

# ASCE 7-10

## Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures

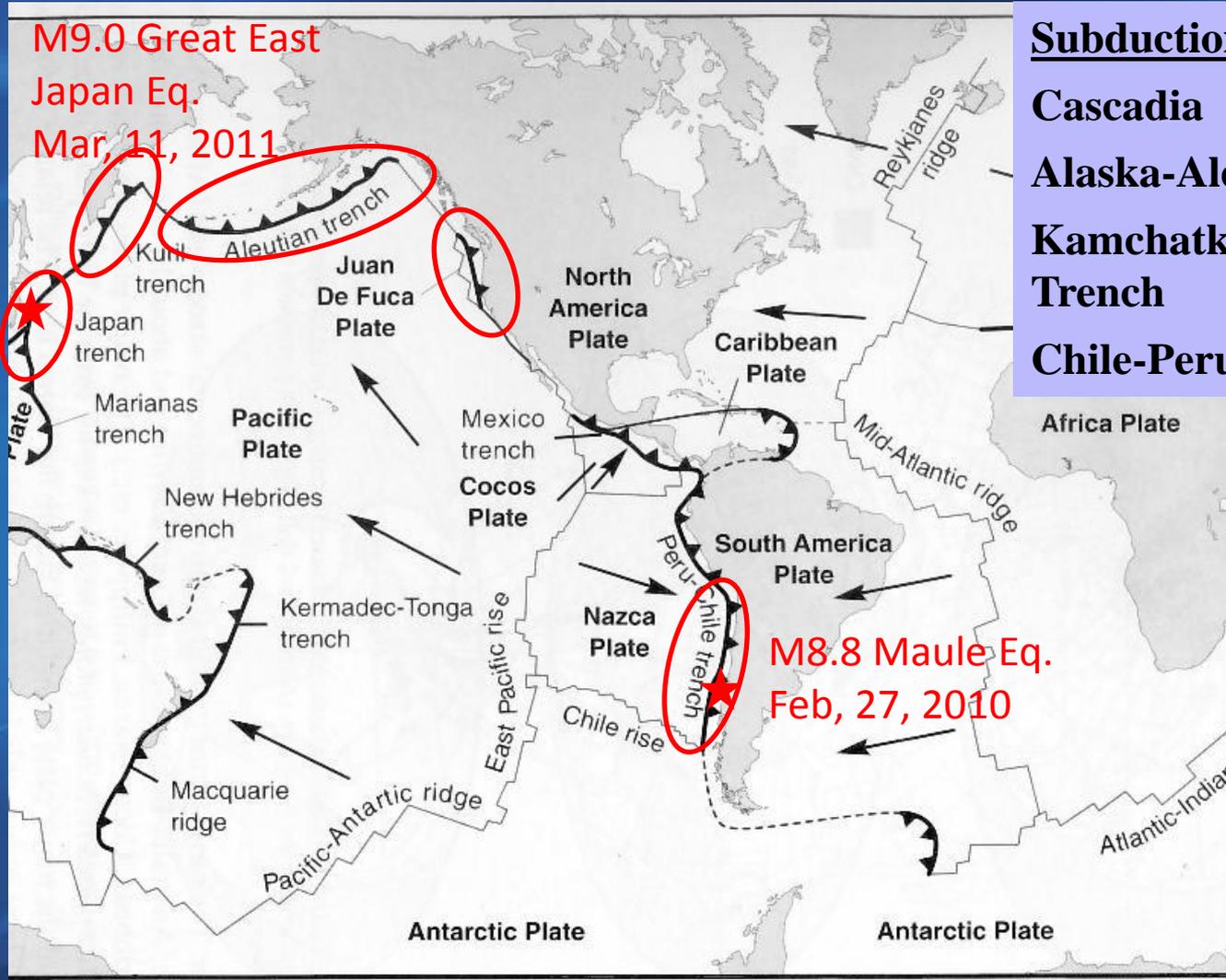
- Chap 1 & 2 – General and load combinations
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# ASCE 7-10

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- **Chap 6 – Tsunami Loads and Effects**
- Chap 7 - Snow loads
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# Tsunami-genic Seismic Sources of Principal Relevance to the USA



State	Population at Direct Risk (USGS Lower-bound estimates)	Profile of Economic Assets and Critical Infrastructure
California	275,000 residents plus another 400,000 to 2,000,000 tourists; 840 miles of coastline	>\$200 Billion plus 3 major airports (SFO, OAK, SAN) and 1 military port, 5 very large ports, 1 large port, 5 medium ports
	<b>Total resident population of area at immediate risk to post-tsunami impacts: 1,950,000</b>	
Oregon	25,000 residents plus another 55,000 tourists; 300 miles of coastline	\$8.5 Billion plus essential facilities, 2 medium ports, 1 fuel depot hub
	<b>Total resident population of area at immediate risk to post-tsunami impacts: 100,000</b>	
Washington	45,000 residents plus another 20,000 tourists; 160 miles of coastline	\$4.5 Billion plus essential facilities, 1 military port, 2 very large ports, 1 large port, 3 medium ports
	<b>Total resident population of area at immediate risk to post-tsunami impacts: 900,000</b>	
Hawaii	~200,000 residents plus another 175,000 or more tourists and approximately 1,000 buildings directly relating to the tourism industry; 750 miles of coastline	\$40 Billion, plus 3 international airports, and 1 military port, 1 medium port, 4 other container ports, and 1 fuel refinery intake port, 3 regional power plants; 100 government buildings
	<b>Total resident population of area at immediate risk to post-tsunami impacts: 400,000</b>	
Alaska	105,000 residents, plus highly seasonal visitor count; 6,600 miles of coastline	>\$10 Billion plus International Airport's fuel depot, 3 medium ports plus 9 other container ports; 55 ports total
	<b>Total resident population of area at immediate risk to post-tsunami impacts: 125,000</b>	

# CSZ and Washington, Oregon & N. California

- 30 minutes to first wave arrival
- Some extremely flat coastal topography with long peninsulas; insufficient time for evacuation to high ground



# Basic Lessons for Design of Buildings from Past Tsunamis

- While structures of all material types can be subject to general and progressive collapse during tsunami, but it is feasible to design certain buildings to withstand tsunami events
- Mid-rise and larger buildings with robust structural systems survive.
- Seismic design has significant benefits to tsunami resistance of the lateral-force-resisting system.
- Local structural components may need local “enhanced” resistance
- Foundation system should consider uplift and scour effects, particularly at corners.

# ASCE 7 Proposed Chapter 6 - Outline

- 6.1 General Requirements
- 6.2-6.3 Definitions, Symbols and Notation
- 6.4 Tsunami Risk Categories
- 6.5 Analysis of Design Inundation Depth and Velocity
- 6.6 Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity Based on Runup
- 6.7 Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity Based on Site-Specific Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Analysis
- 6.8 Structural Design Procedures for Tsunami Effects
- 6.9 Hydrostatic Loads
- 6.10 Hydrodynamic Loads
- 6.11 Debris Impact Loads
- 6.12 Foundation Design
- 6.13 Structural Countermeasures for Tsunami Loading
- 6.14 Tsunami Vertical Evacuation Refuge Structures
- 6.15 Designated Nonstructural Systems
- 6.16 Non-Building Structures

# Section 6.1 General Requirements

Scope – Chapter 6 is applicable within mapped **Tsunami Design Zone**

The Tsunami Design Zone is the area vulnerable to being inundated by the Maximum Considered Tsunami, having a 2% probability of being exceeded in a 50-year period, or **1:2500 annual odds of exceedance**.

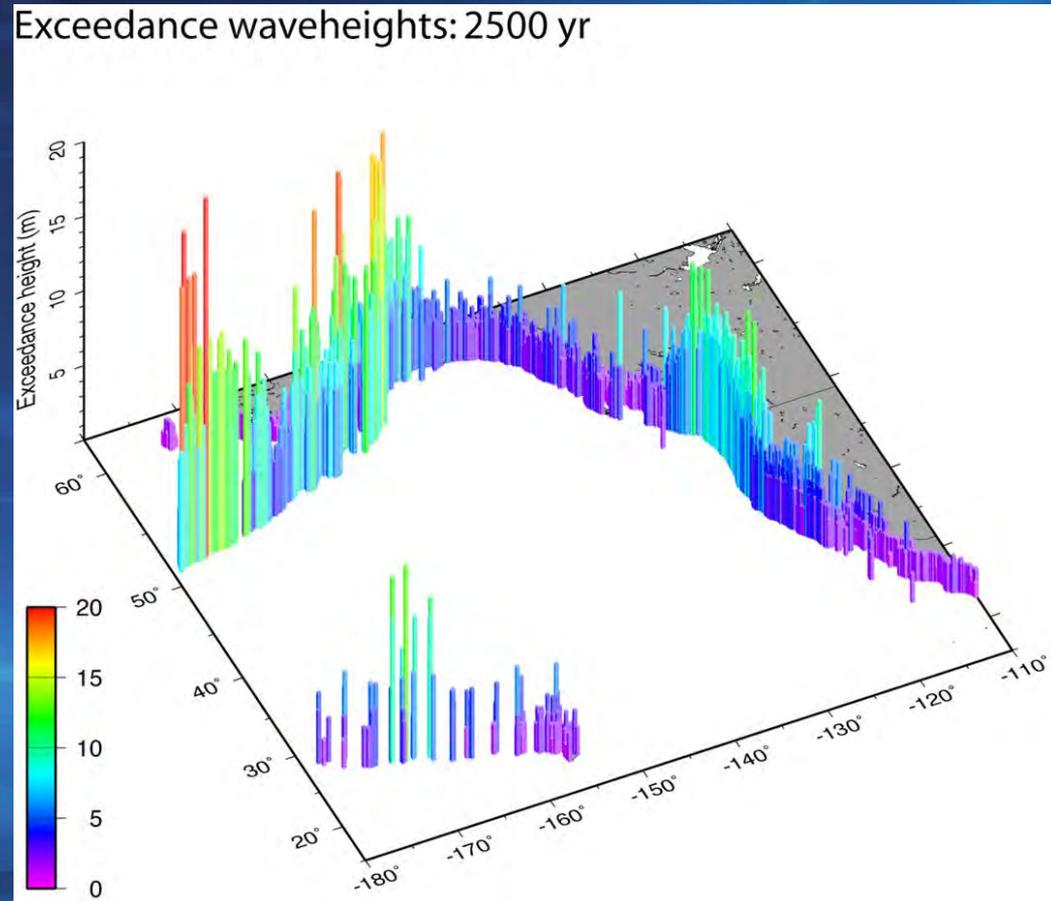
The ASCE 7 Tsunami Loads and Effects Chapter is applicable only to the states of **Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii**, which are tsunami-prone regions that have quantifiable hazards.

Could be adopted by **other states and US territories** (Guam, Puerto Rico, Samoa, etc.) if desired.

May find substantial **international use** in lieu of current codes based on FEMA P646 Guidelines.

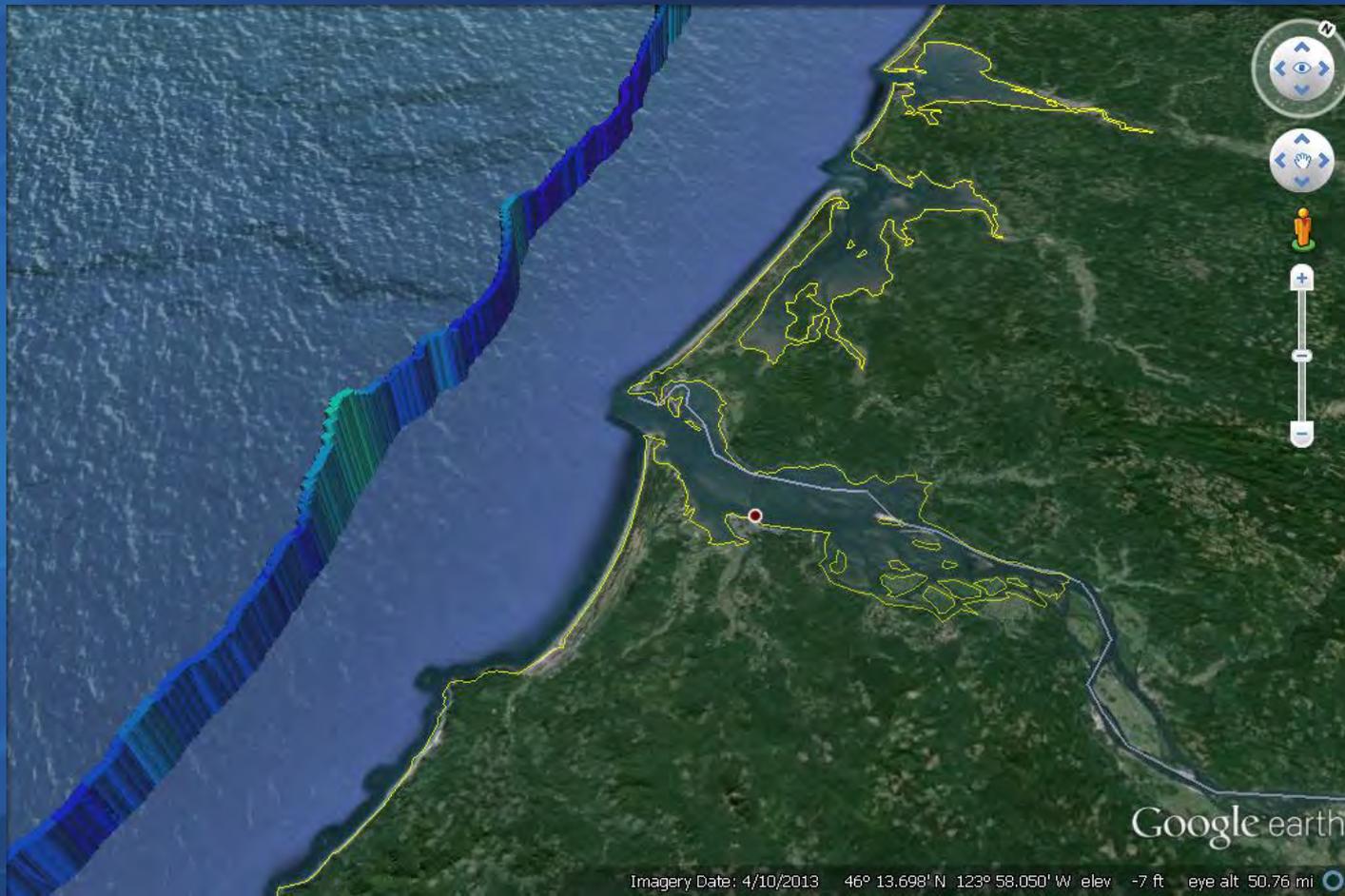
# Tsunami Design Zone: Lessons from the Tohoku, Chile, and Sumatra Tsunamis

- Recorded history may not provide a sufficient measure of the potential heights of great tsunamis.
- Design must consider the occurrence of events greater than in the historical record
- Therefore, probabilistic physics-based Tsunami Hazard Analysis should be performed in addition to historical event scenarios
- This is consistent with the probabilistic seismic hazard analysis



# Maximum Considered Tsunami (MCT)

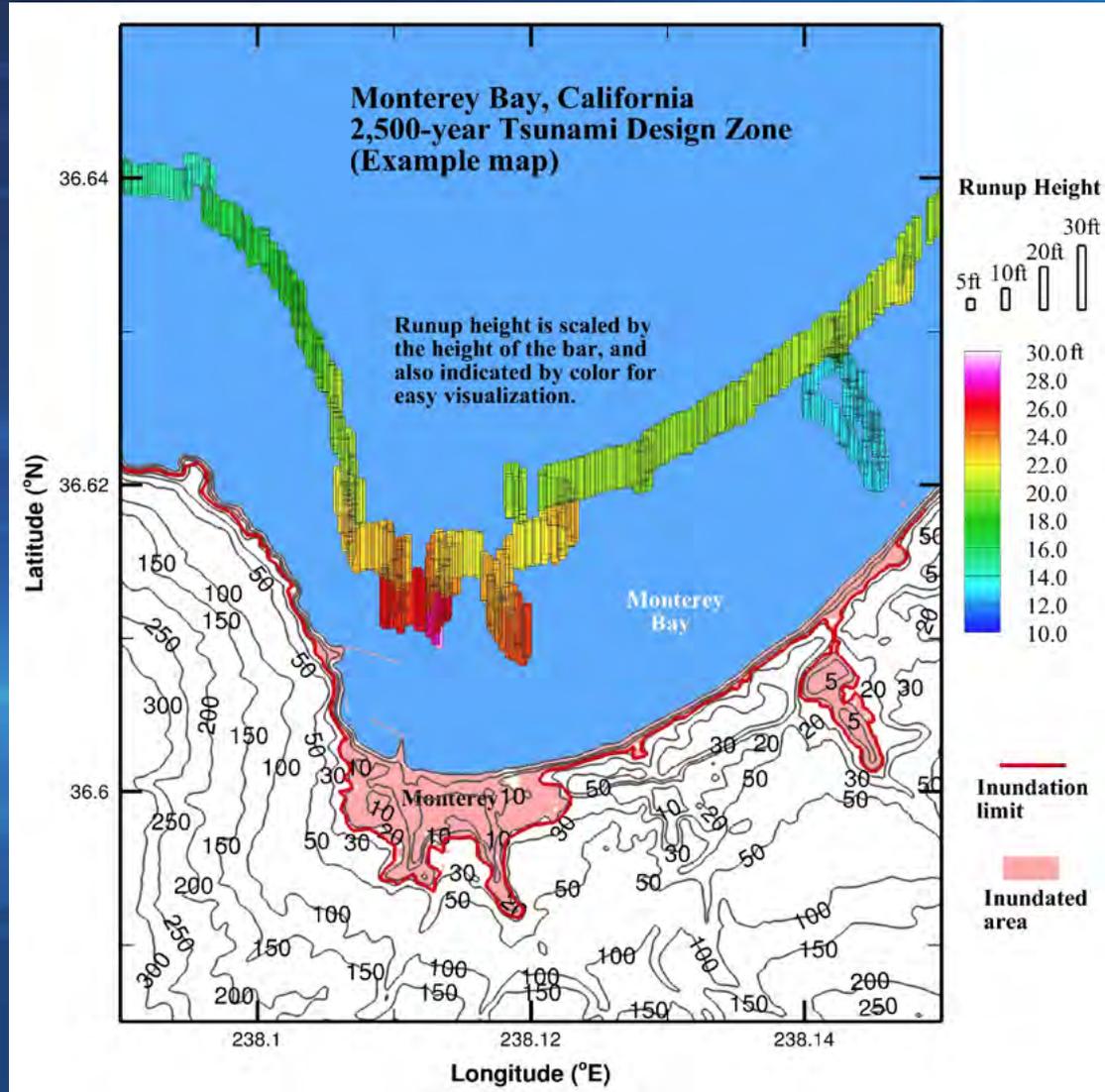
- Probabilistic definition of the 2500-yr return period event – MCT
- Based on probabilistic hazard analysis, the 100-m bathymetric contour offshore amplitude and predominant period of the MCT is defined along the US west coast and Hawaii (KML File)



# Tsunami Design Zone

- Inundation from the MCT defines the Tsunami Design Zone (TDZ)

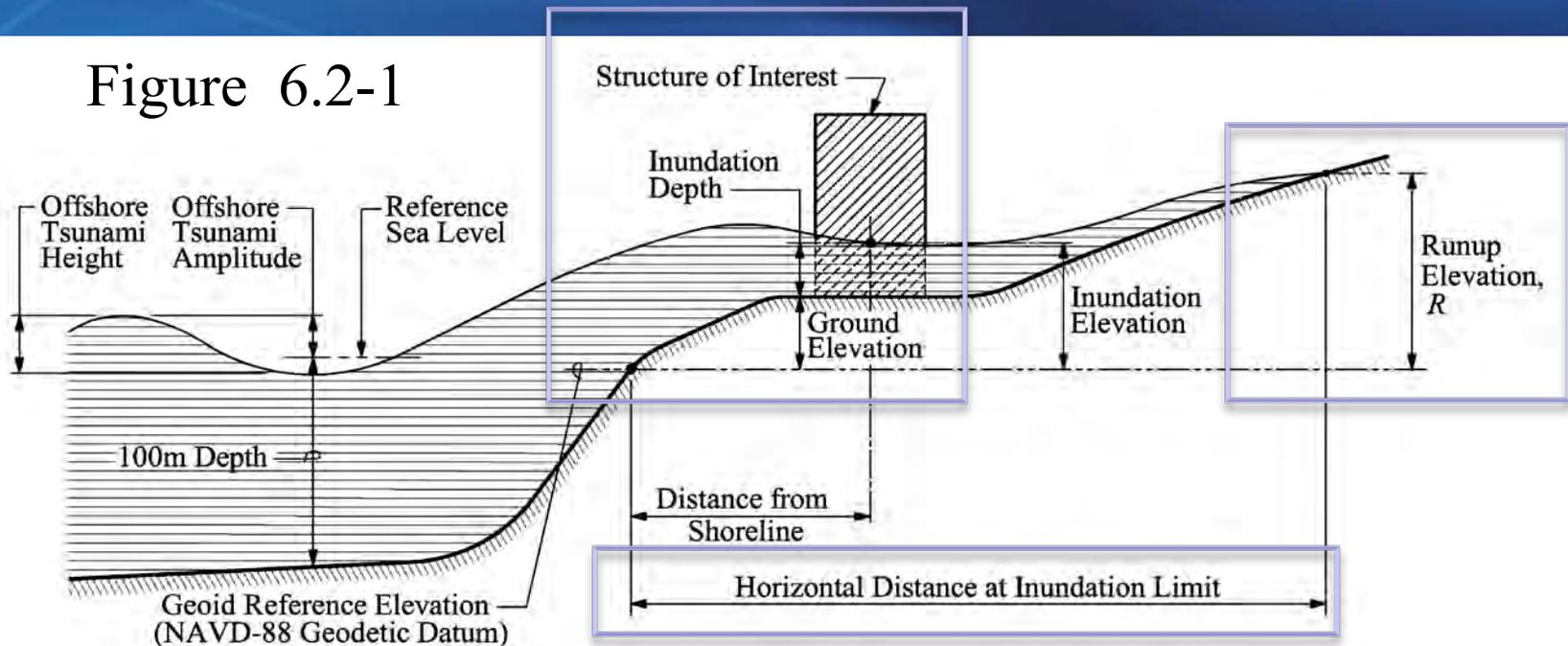
- Probabilistic inundation is based on the “hazard consistent tsunamis” matching the offshore height and return period
- Maps will be provided as downloadable KML files for use in Google Earth



# Definitions

- **RUNUP ELEVATION:** Difference between the elevation of maximum tsunami inundation limit and the (NAVD-88) reference datum
- **INUNDATION DEPTH:** The depth of design tsunami water level with respect to the grade plane at the structure
- **INUNDATION LIMIT:** The horizontal inland distance from the shoreline inundated by the tsunami

Figure 6.2-1



# Risk Categories of Buildings and Other Structures per ASCE 7

Not all structures within the TDZ are subject to the provisions

<b>Risk Category I</b>	<b>Buildings and other structures that represent a low risk to humans</b>
<b>Risk Category II</b>	<b>All buildings and other structures except those listed in Risk Categories I, III, IV</b>
<b>Risk Category III</b>	<b>Buildings and other structures, the failure of which could pose a substantial risk to human life. Buildings and other structures with potential to cause a substantial economic impact and/or mass disruption of day-to-day civilian life in the event of failure.</b>
<b>Risk Category IV</b>	<b>Buildings and other structures designated as essential facilities Buildings and other structures, the failure of which could pose a substantial hazard to the community.</b>

**The tsunami provisions target the performance of Risk Category III and IV and taller Risk Category II structures with some modifications**

# Section 6.1

## 6.1.1 Scope

The following buildings and other structures located within the Tsunami Design Zone shall be designed for the effects of Maximum Considered Tsunami ..... in accordance with this Chapter:

- a. Tsunami Risk Category IV buildings and structures, including Vertical Evacuation Structures.
- b. Tsunami Risk Category III buildings and structures with inundation depth at any point greater than 3 feet
- c. Tsunami Risk Category II buildings with mean height above grade plane greater than 65 ft (19.8m) and inundation depth at any point greater than 3 feet

*Exception: Risk Category II single-story buildings of any height without mezzanines or any occupiable roof level, and not having any critical equipment or systems.*

# Tsunami Flow Characteristics

- Near constant velocity over land, top to bottom, with very rapidly rising depth,
- Unlike a storm surge; there is no stillwater
- Wave period ranges between 30 minutes to 1 hour for *each* wave in a series; shoaling leads to nearshore amplitude typically being amplified to several times the offshore amplitude
- Two approaches to determine depth and flow velocity
  - Flow parameters based on pre-calculated runup from the maps (the Energy Grade Line Analysis method)
  - Flow parameters based on a Site-Specific Probabilistic Hazard Analysis (with 75-90% EGL method as “floor velocity value”) – Required for TRC IV, optional for others

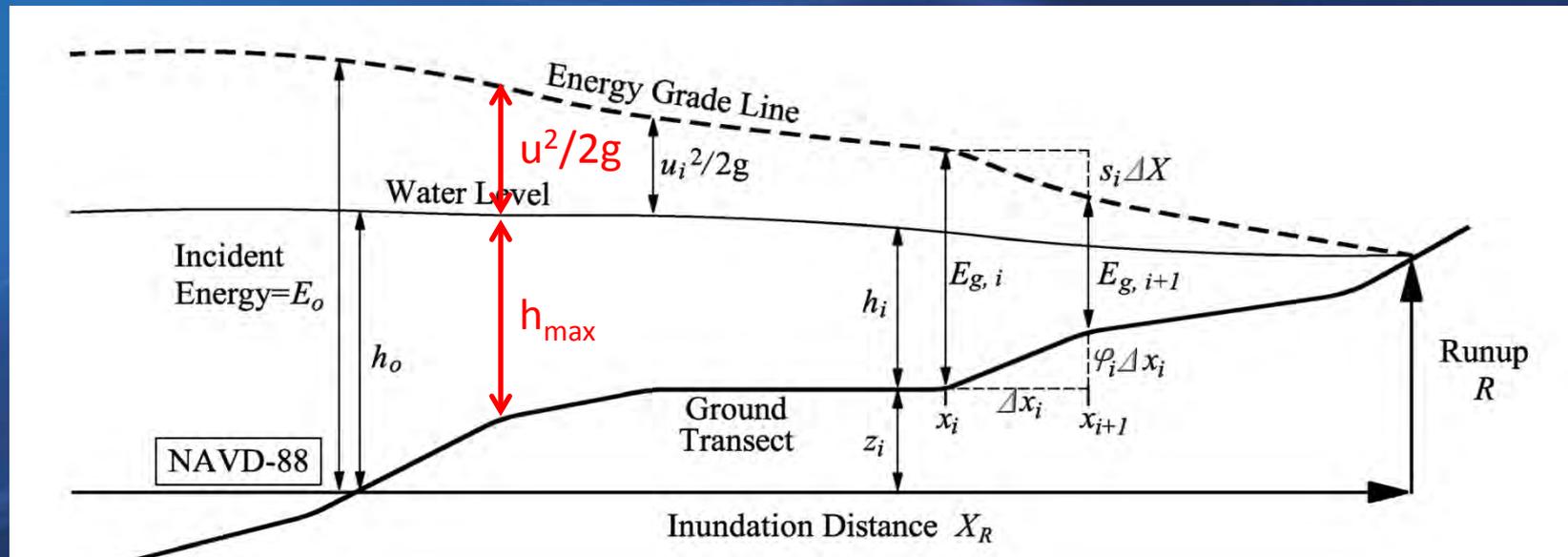
# Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity Based on Runup

- Energy Grade Line Analysis

- Determine hydraulic head at shore required to obtain runup
- Calculation based on simple hydraulics using Manning's roughness coefficients

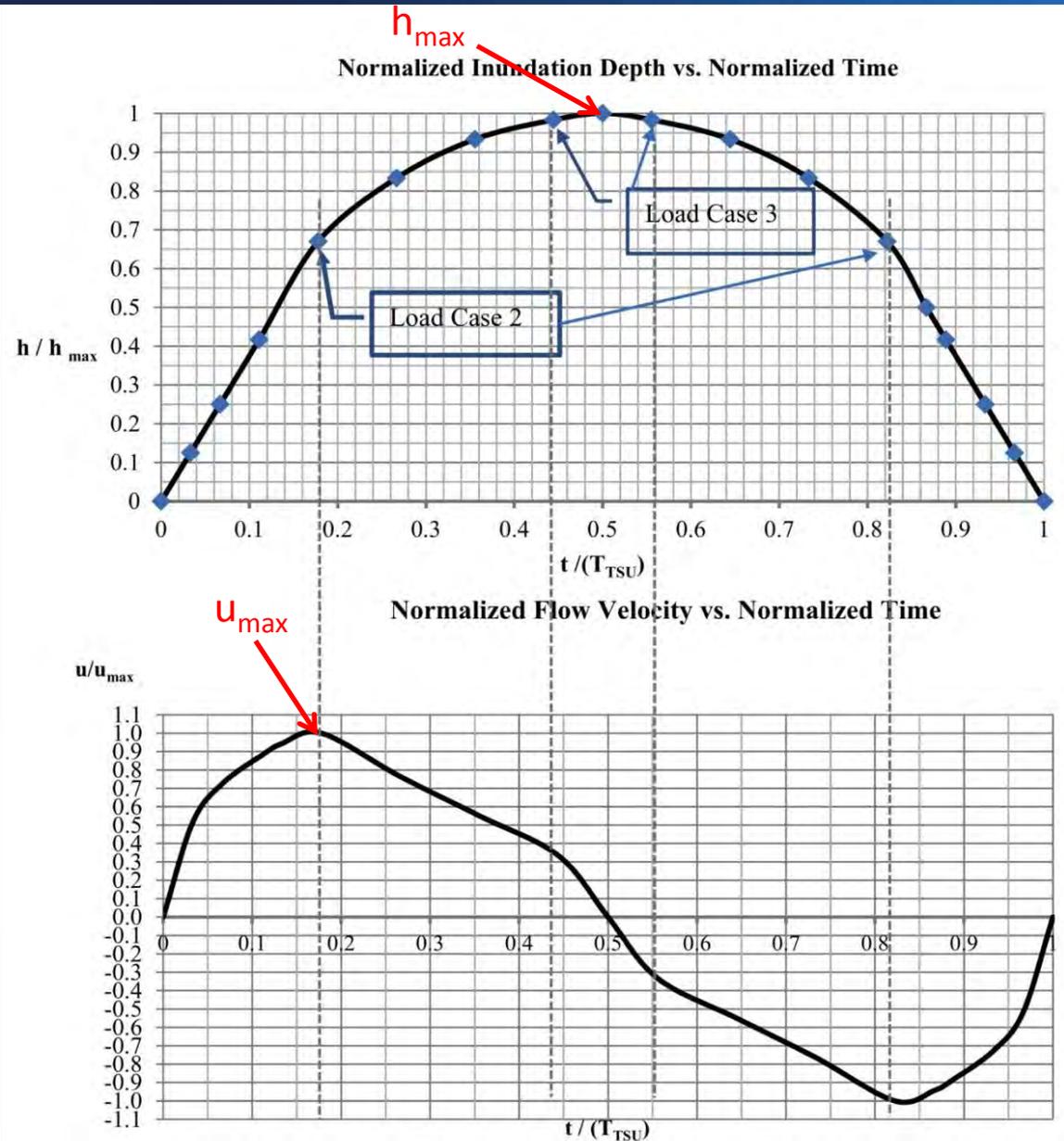
$$E_{g,i+1} = E_{g,i} - (\phi_i + s_i) \Delta X_i$$

- Validated to be conservative through field data & 36,000 numerical simulations yielding 700,000 data points



# Load Cases

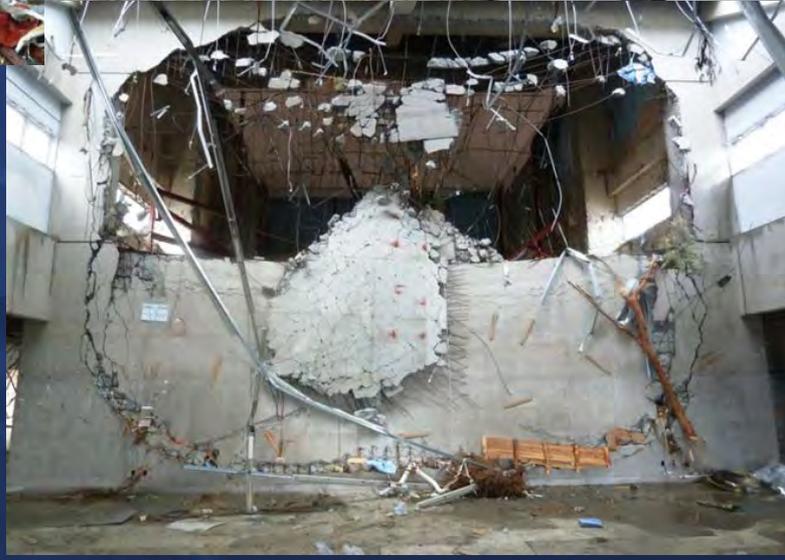
- Based on a prototypical time history of depth and flow velocity as a function of the maximum values determined from the Energy Grade Line Analysis
- 3 discrete governing stages of flow
- Load Case 1 is a max. buoyancy check during initial flow
- LC 2 and 3 shown



# Inundation Depth and Flow Velocity Based on Site-Specific Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Analysis

- Can be run as a nonlinear time history inundation model analysis using Hazard Consistent Tsunami matching the defined probabilistic waveform
  - Offshore Tsunami Amplitude & effective Wave Period  
Relative amplitudes of crest and trough for each region
- Can be run as a complete probabilistic simulation from the seismic source slip event, calibrated to match the defined probabilistic Offshore Tsunami Amplitude
- In either case, time histories of site-specific flow parameters are generated.

# Structural Loads



# Tsunami Loads and Effects

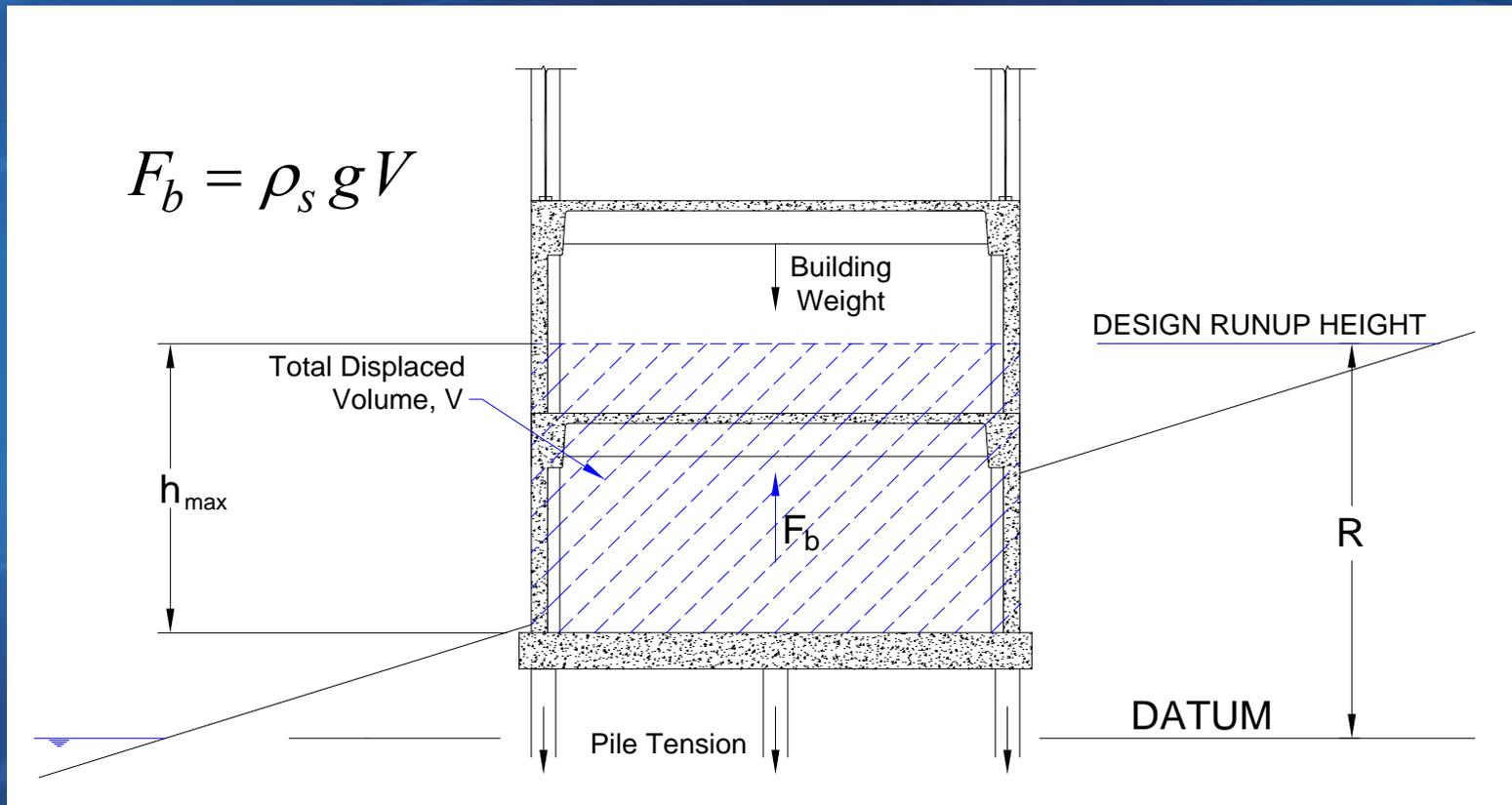
- Hydrostatic Forces (equations of the form  $k_s \rho_{sw} gh$ )
  - Unbalanced Lateral Forces at initial flooding
  - Buoyant Uplift based on displaced volume
  - Residual Water Surcharge Loads on Elevated Floors
- Hydrodynamic Forces (equations of the form  $\frac{1}{2} k_s \rho_{sw} (hu^2)$ )
  - Drag Forces – per drag coefficient  $C_d$  based on size and element
  - Lateral Impulsive Forces of Tsunami Bores or Broad Walls: Factor of 1.5
  - Hydrodynamic Pressurization by Stagnated Flow – per Benoulli
  - Shock pressure effect of entrapped bore – (this is a special case)
- Waterborne Debris Impact Forces (flow speed and  $\sqrt{\text{mass}}$ )
  - Poles, passenger vehicles, medium boulders always applied
  - Shipping containers, boats if structure is in proximity to hazard zone
  - Extraordinary impacts of ships only where in proximity to Risk Category III & IV structures
- Scour Effects (mostly prescriptive based on flow depth)

# Tsunami Loads and Effects

- Hydrostatic Forces (equations of the form  $k_s \rho_{sw} gh$ )
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# Buoyant uplift

- Applicable to sealed spaces with structural floor
- Buoyancy must be resisted by dead weight of building and tension capacity of piles



# Buoyancy

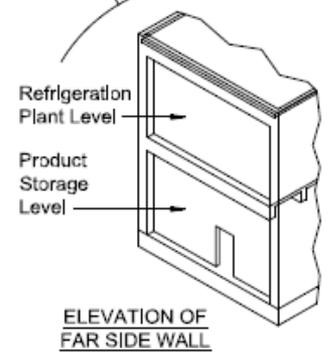
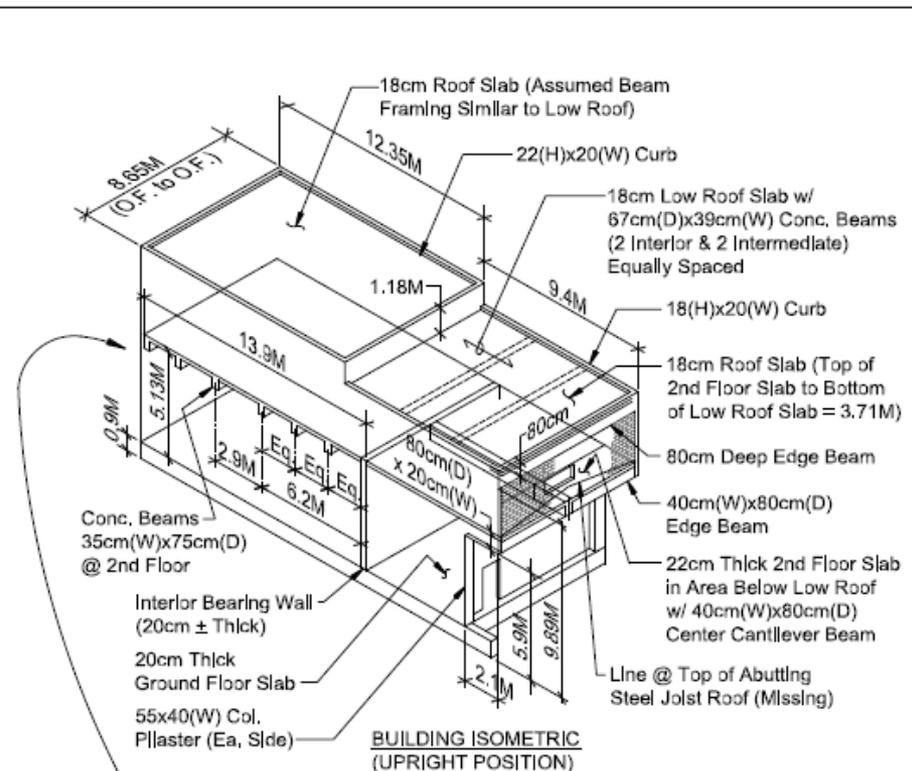


- Onagawa overturned concrete fish storage building
- Buoyancy and lateral load

# Building Performance – Building Overturning



Two-Story Refrigerated Concrete Warehouse (9000 kN deadweight) on Bearing Piles floated at 7 m inundation depth during inflow and then overturned about 20 meters from original position



**OVERTURNED FISH REFRIGERATION BUILDING - ONAGAWA**  
(SHIFTED ABOUT 20 METERS)

# Types of Floating Debris Storage Tanks



Storage tankers in Kesenuma

- Storage Tankers will float unless relatively full or well restrained.
- The thin walls rupture easily during impact leading to fuel spills and fires



Storage tankers in Onagawa



# Hydrodynamic Loads

- Formulations for detailed calculations on the building and for loads on components
  - Typically of the standard form drag (h- inundation depth and u – flow velocity for each load case)

$$f_{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_s C_d C_{cx} B (hu^2)$$

- Adjustments for perforated and angled walls



# Structural Response Foundation Failure



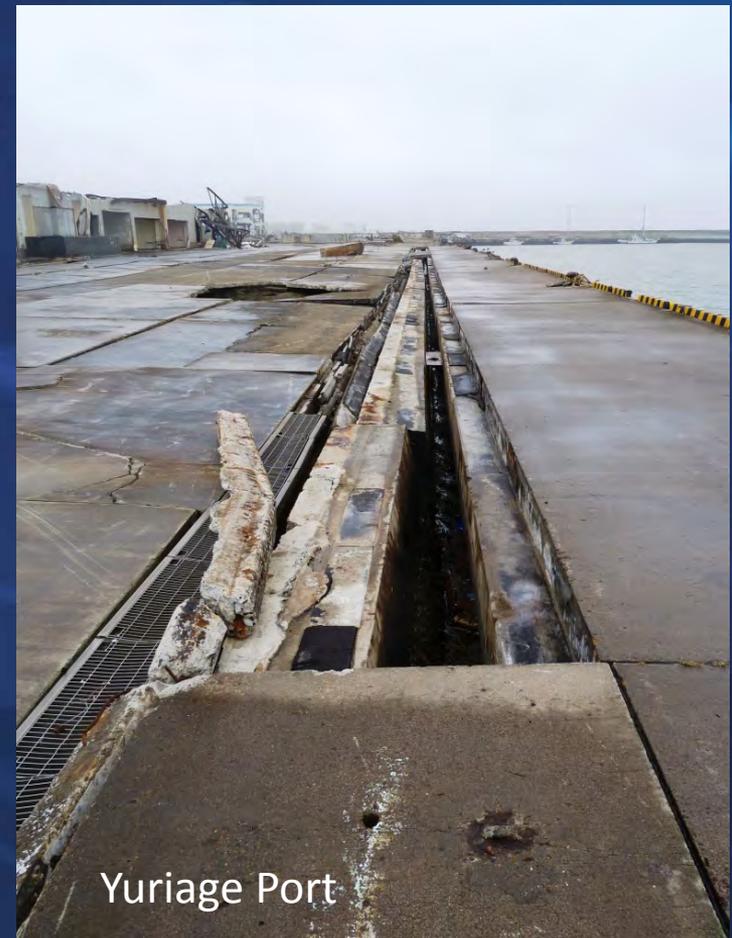
Onagawa  
overturned steel  
building  
Hollow pipe  
compression piles

# Performance of Concrete Piers and Wharfs

- Pressure relief grating and/or breakaway panels between pile-supported pier and wharf sections can lessen damage to both



Tarou



Yuriage Port



# Debris Impact Loads

- Waterborne Debris Loads
  - Utility poles/logs
  - Passenger vehicles
  - Tumbling boulders and concrete masses
  - Shipping containers only where near ports and harbors
  - Large vessels considered for Critical Facilities and Risk Category IV only where near such ports and harbors

# Types of Floating Debris Logs and Shipping Containers



Power poles and tree trunks  
become floating logs



Shipping containers float  
even when fully loaded



# Types of Rolling Debris Rocks and Concrete Debris



Medium boulder swept onshore



Segment of failed seawall impacted and damaged a concrete column in Tarou



Large displaced seawall segment

# *NEESR-CR: Impact Forces from Tsunami-Driven Debris*

H.R. Riggs  
U. of Hawaii

C.J. Naito  
Lehigh U.

D.T. Cox  
Oregon State U.

M.H. Kobayashi  
U. of Hawaii

P. Piran Aghl (LU)  
Lehigh U.

H.T.-S. Ko  
Oregon State U.

E. Khowitar  
U. of Hawaii



George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES)



May 16, 2013

<https://nees.org/resources/6277/>

# ISO 20-ft Shipping Container

- 6.1 m x 2.4 m x 2.6 m and 2300 kg empty
- Containers have 2 bottom rails and 2 top rails
- Pendulum setup; longitudinal rails strike load cell(s)

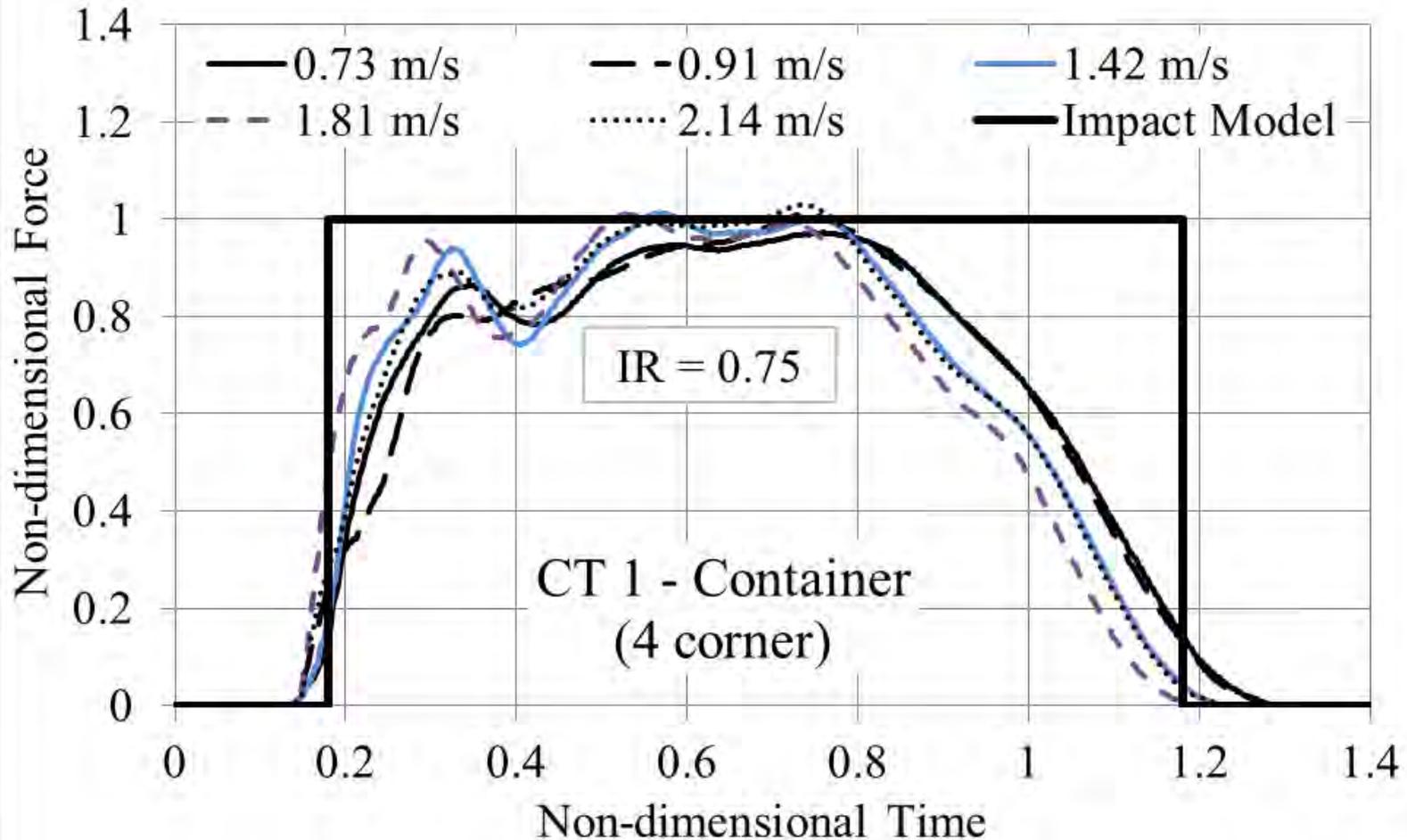


# Shipping Container Impact

[Video](#)

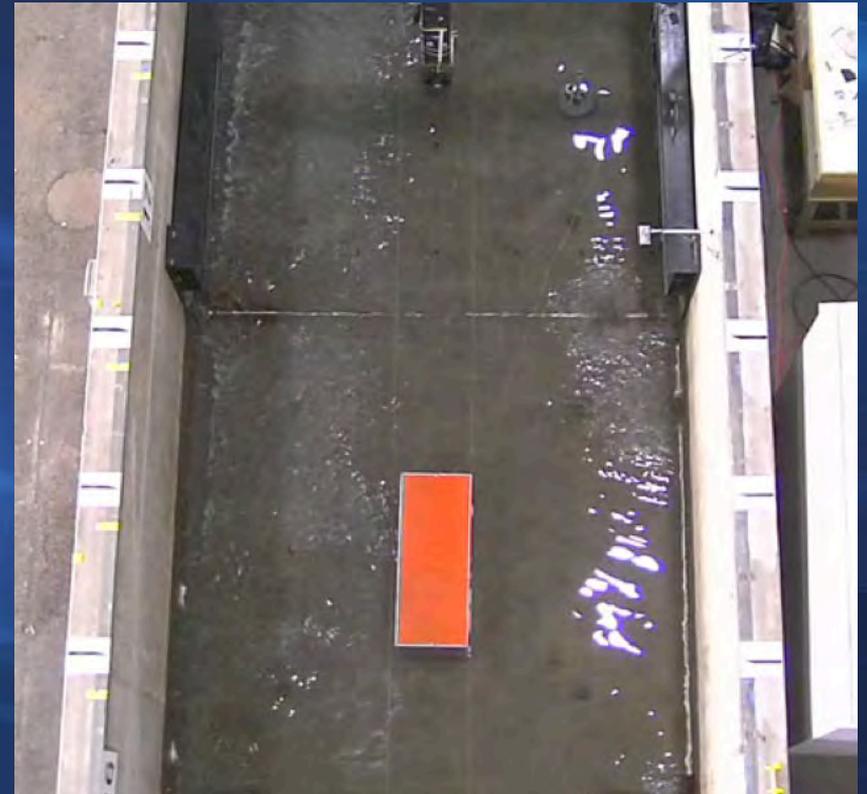
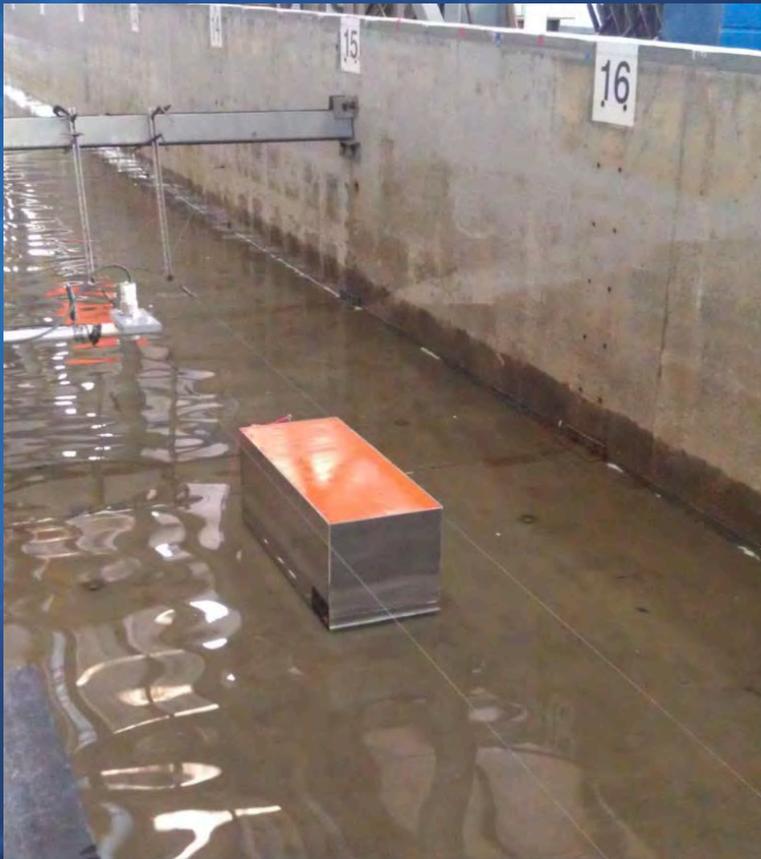


# Impact Force Time History



# Aluminum and Acrylic Containers

- 1/5 scale model containers of aluminum and acrylic
- Guide wires controlled the trajectory
- Container hits underwater load cell to measure the force



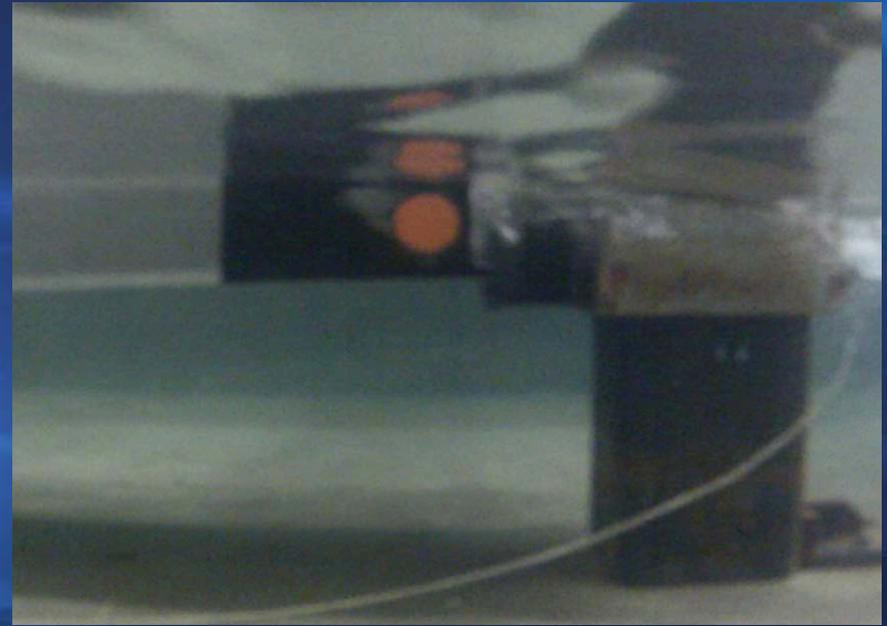
Column and load cell at top of photo

# Impact with Load Cell

- In-air tests carried out with pendulum set-up for baseline
- In-water impact filmed by submersible camera
- Impact was on bottom plate to approximate longitudinal rail impact



In-air impact



In-water impact

# Container Impact

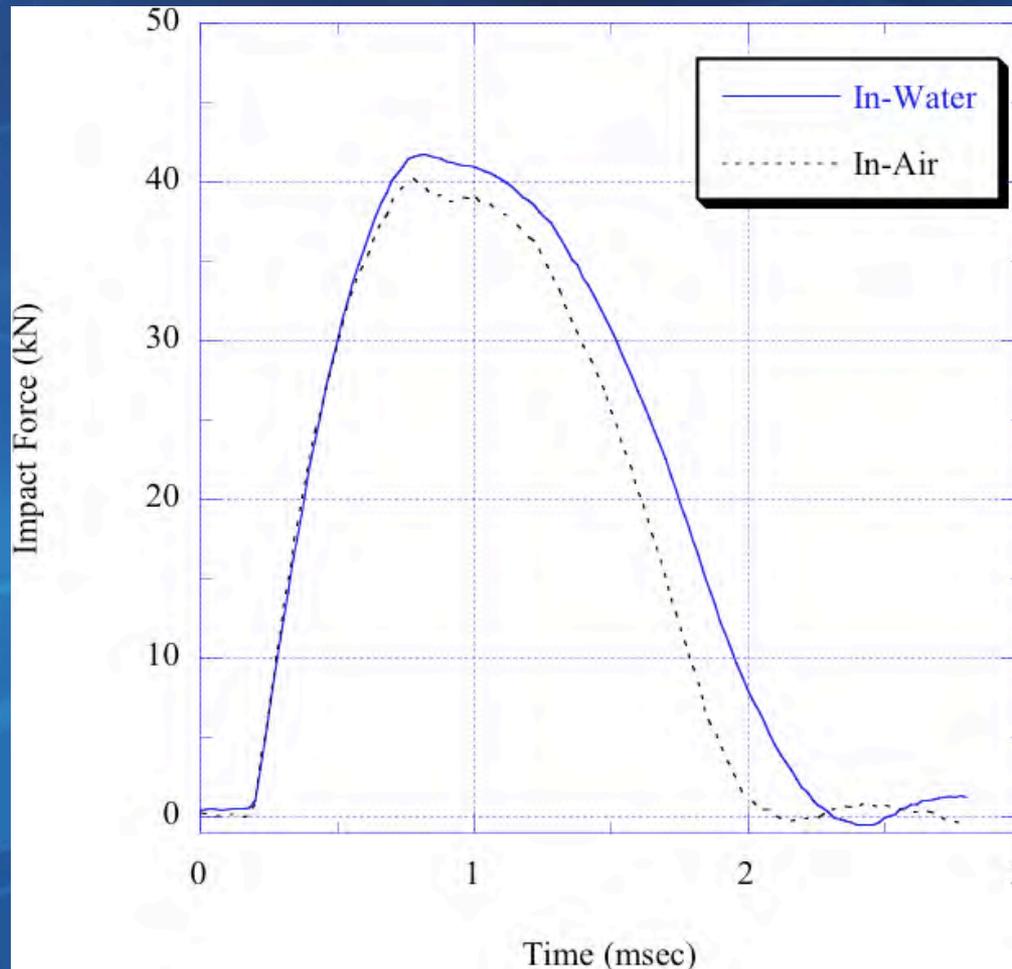


# Side View



# Force Time-History

- In-water impact and in-air impact very similar
  - Less difference between in-air and in-water compared to scatter between different in-water trials



# Debris Impact Force

- Nominal maximum impact force

$$F_{ni} = u_{\max} \sqrt{km_d}$$

- Factored design force based on importance factor

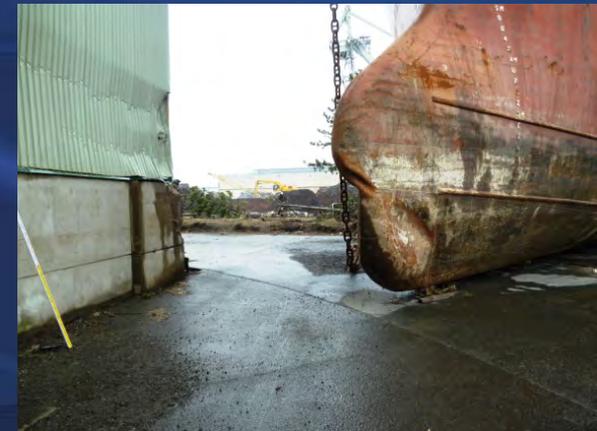
$$F_i = I_{TSU} F_{ni}$$

- Impact duration

$$t_d = \frac{2m_d u_{\max}}{F_{ni}}$$

- Force capped based on strength of debris

# Ship Impact – Sendai Port



# Ship Impact damage - Kamaishi



Damage to pier and warehouse due to multiple impacts from single loose ship



# Kamaishi Ship Impact



- Two survivor videos show evidence of ship impact on blue warehouse

# Kamaishi Ship Impact



# Ship Velocity



$$\Delta t = \frac{(1805 - 1666)}{30 \text{ fps}} = 4.63 \text{ s}$$

$$\therefore v = \frac{33 \text{ m}}{4.63 \text{ s}} = 7.13 \text{ m/s} = 13.9 \text{ knots}$$

# Ship Impact in Kamaishi Port



Plan for Ship Evacuation

Design for Progressive Collapse Prevention

# MOTEMS - Tsunami Guidelines

- Section 3103F.5.7 – Tsunamis
- Limited information, but references other documents
- Tsunamis can be generated by earthquake or landslide
- May be distant or near source
- Warns that “large wave or surge and the excessive currents are potentially damaging, especially if there is a tank vessel moored alongside the MOT wharf.”
- Requires each MOT to have a “tsunami plan” in the event of distant tsunami
- Computational tsunami models should be used to determine likely currents, including effects of resonance

# MOTEMS - Tsunami Guidelines

- Reference California study for near field tsunamis with 5,000 to 10,000 year return periods
- Also reference a study by Synolakis et al. with run-up estimates as follows:
  - Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach = 8 ft.
  - Port Hueneme = 11 ft.

# MOTEMS - Tsunami Guidelines

- Also reference a study for San Francisco Bay

S.F. Bay MOT Locale	Maximum Water Levels (ft)	Current Velocity (ft/sec)
Richmond, outer	7.5	4.9
Richmond, inner	7.9	8.9
Martinez	2.3	1.3
Selby	2.6	1.6
Rodeo	2.6	2.0
Benicia	2.0	1.0

\* Golden Gate Tidal Current Velocity – up to 3.6 knots (6 ft/sec)

- ASCE 2500 year tsunami maps may be useful for offshore wave height predictions

# MOTEMS - Tsunami Guidelines

- Largest estimated wave height should be added to mean high tide
- Reference provided where loads can be calculated for various structural configurations
- Other structural considerations include uplift and debris impact
- ASCE loading expressions may be useful, particularly debris impact provisions

# The ASCE Tsunami Loads and Effects Subcommittee

Comments to: Gary Chock, Chair [gchock@martinchock.com](mailto:gchock@martinchock.com)

Ian Robertson, [ianrob@hawaii.edu](mailto:ianrob@hawaii.edu)

An aerial photograph showing a coastal town completely inundated by a massive tsunami wave. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the buildings are partially submerged. In the foreground, a large white boat is visible in the water. The background shows a long, low island or peninsula also surrounded by water. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Any Questions?