

UCCS Mathematics

Colloquium

Thursday, April 14th, 2011

UC 302

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

(Refreshments at 12:15 pm)

Dr. Harvey Segur, University of Colorado - Boulder

Tsunamis

Abstract: On December 26, 2004, a series of strong earthquakes in the northern Indian Ocean created a tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people in coastal regions there. On March 11, 2011, a strong earthquake off the coast of Japan created a tsunami that killed at least 10,000 people and devastated the coastal region near Sendai, Japan. These two events convinced millions of people around the world to start paying more attention to tsunamis.

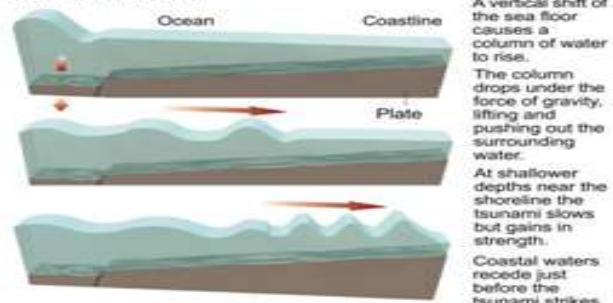
- What is a tsunami?
- How do tsunamis work?
- Both of these tsunamis killed people near the center of the earthquake, but the one in 2004 also killed people more than a thousand miles away. What makes some tsunamis dangerous far away, while others are not at all dangerous far away?
- What can be done to predict dangerous tsunamis? What is now being done?
- What can be done to mitigate the terrible loss of life from dangerous tsunamis?

This talk might involve the least mathematics of any talk in this year's colloquium series.



Rolling seas bring a tide of destruction

Sunday's deadly tsunami was caused by geologic plates under the Indian Ocean pressing against and under each other, causing a movement on the sea floor that pushed water up and out to form a wall of destruction.



SOURCES: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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