

Railways, district administration evaluate Tsunami preparedness through mock drill

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VISAKHAPATNAM: As per the directives of the ministry of home affairs and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, a tsunami mock drill was organised by the Waltair Division of East Coast Railway between Pundi and Srikakulam Road stations on Wednesday morning.

The exercise was intended to test the preparedness of the disaster management mechanism of the Railways in case of a mass emergency situation and to review the lapses, if any, said an official release. All the departments associated with disaster management took part in this exercise and focus was on measures to be adopted on a war footing at various levels, the release added.

The tsunami alert for the drill was issued from the emergency operation centre of the divisional headquarters and an urgent meeting was convened by the divisional railway manager. Messages were sent through phone, e-mail, fax and other media. rescue and relief teams were prepared along with accident relief trains. A medical emergency train was ordered at the affected area.

The district administration also organised a tsunami mock drill at Rajannapalem in Atchutapuram mandal in the district. As part of the measures, a team led by the Anakapalli revenue divisional officer coordinated with various departments to alert citizens and evacuate people from schools, gram panchayat office and temples.

HPCL Visakha New White Oil Terminal also conducted a mock drill as per the disaster management plan in presence of deputy chief inspector of factories KBS Prasad, inspector of factories P Chinna Rao and experts from the oil industry.