

# OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

## Geo-Hazards Awareness Workshop for the Media



Geo-Hazards Awareness Workshop for Media was held at MNREM Matautu-tai Office on 29th May 2006. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of all media professionals around the country to enable them to understand the nature or science of the three key geo-hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis) that we have chosen for that workshop as well as the mitigation and preparedness measures such as public safety procedures that can help you in providing this information to the public. The emphasis on raising the awareness of the media is based on the actual fact that media plays a key role in disseminating the information to the public in particular warning and public safety information

### Background

The devastation of countries around the world by disasters of all kinds either natural or human-induced in particular the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami indicate to us all that being prepared is very important. Preparedness includes having a level of understanding and awareness of the nature of any hazard as well as what to do when such a disaster occur. The technology that we have to observe and detect hazards that may pose a threat to all life on earth will be just a piece of equipment

and a list of procedures if we do not know how to apply it to save life and property from being adversely impacted from disasters.

Due to the mass devastation that geo-physical hazards such as earthquake, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis can have on any community, education and awareness becomes critical as some of these hazards do not have a window for warning. This awareness workshop is just part of the preparation that we need to do. There are many other things that we need to put in place to strengthen the resilience of our communities.



Geo-Hazards Awareness Workshop

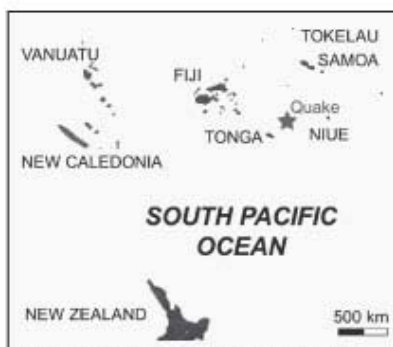
## Summary of Earthquake Events in Samoa, January - May 2006

Listed in Table 1 is a summary of felt earthquake events recorded at the Afiamalu seismic station (AFI AS095) from the period January to May 2006. Earthquakes with a magnitude greater than or equal to 4.0 on the Richter scale have been listed, as it is these earthquakes that are typically felt by humans according to historical data.

January, February and March were seismically quiet months relative to April and May, which saw a marked increase in the number of total earthquakes progressively. May had the largest number of earthquakes, including the magnitude 8.0 earthquake which occurred on the 3rd of May, and triggered a small tsunami.

It should be noted that the majority of these felt earthquakes occurred along the Tonga trench boundary; a subduction zone area where the oceanic Pacific plate is slowly subducting beneath the continental Indo-Australian plate. As noted in the "Region of occurrence" column given in Table 1, the Tonga region refers to the area on the continental side of the trench boundary, and the Samoa region refers to the area on the oceanic side of the trench boundary.

The increase in the number of earthquakes in the months of April and May, may be associated with a build up of strain along the Tonga trench boundary in the prior months, followed by a series of stress or energy



Approximate location of the earthquake on the 3rd of May 2006

release in these two months. It should also be noted that successive to the magnitude 8.0 earthquake on the 3rd of May, a series of aftershocks averaging 5.4 on the Richter scale were recorded.

The information provided may be useful for all members of society in the context of disaster and risk planning as well as management, and also for engineering purposes. For more information, please contact the Geophysics Section of the Samoa Meteorology Division.

Contact to Meteorology Division  
Tel: (685)20855/20856 Fax: (685)23141

Table 1: Summary of earthquake events in Samoa from January to May 2006

Month	Total number of Earthquakes	Highest magnitude recorded	Lowest magnitude recorded	Average magnitude	Region of occurrence
January	2	5.2	5.1	5.2	Tonga
February	3	5.8	4.8	5.3	Samoa
March	5	6.7	5.4	6.1	Vanuatu
April	13	7.7	5.1	6.0	50% Tonga, 50% other parts of the region
May	22	8.0	4.7	5.8	80% Toga, 20% other parts of the region

### EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

Preparedness for all kinds of disaster is very important, having a level of understanding and awareness of the nature of any hazard as well as what to do when such a disaster occur. One of the actions we can do for the preparedness is to prepare the EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT below.

#### ● Food and water- Enough for 3 Days

- Canned or dried food
- A can opener
- A primus or BBQ to cook on
- Bottled water (3 litres per person per day)
- Check and renew the food and water every 12 months

#### ● Emergency items

- First Aid Kit and essential medicines
- Spare toilet paper and plastic rubbish bags for emergency toilet
- Pet supplies
- Waterproof torches and spare batteries
- Radio and spare batteries
- Check the batteries every three months

#### ● Emergency clothing

- Wind proof and rainproof
- Sun hats
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Strong shoes for outdoors

#### ● Supplies for babies and small children

- Food and drink
- Change of clothing
- Favorite toy or activity

#### ● Special supplies for those with disabilities

- Hearing aids
- Mobility aids
- Glasses

#### ● Your First Aid Kit

You should have a complete First Aid kit available in your home. If you can't get a complete one or would prefer to make one up yourself, the following list is recommended by The Order of St. John as a minimum guide suitable for families:

- Triangular Bandages (2)
- Roller Bandages, 50mm (1 roll) and 75 mm (2 rolls)
- Sterile Gauze, 7.5cm x 7.5 cm (2)
- Adhesive Wound Dressing, 6 cm wide x 1 metre long (1 strip)
- Plaster Strip Dressings (1 packet)
- Adhesive Tape, 25 mm hypoallergenic (1 roll)
- Sterile Non-Adhesive Pads, small (2) and large(3)
- Sterile Eye Pad (1)
- Eye Wash Container (1)
- Eye Wash Solution, Saline Steritube 30 ml (1)
- Antiseptic Solution, Chlorhexidine Steritube 30ml (4)
- Safety Pins (1 card)
- Scissors (1 pair)
- Splinter Forceps (1 pair)
- Disposable Gloves (2 pair)
- Accident Register and Pencil
- First Aid Manual
- Card Listing Local Emergency Numbers

#### ● Your Gateway Kit

Everyone should have a small bag for a Gateway Kit, ready for evacuation. Most of the items are part of your Emergency Survival Kit. Other items include:

- Family documents (birth/marriage certificates, drivers' licences, passports, family photos and insurance policies)
- Personal hygiene items (towels/soap & toothbrushes, and a change of clothes)



# OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

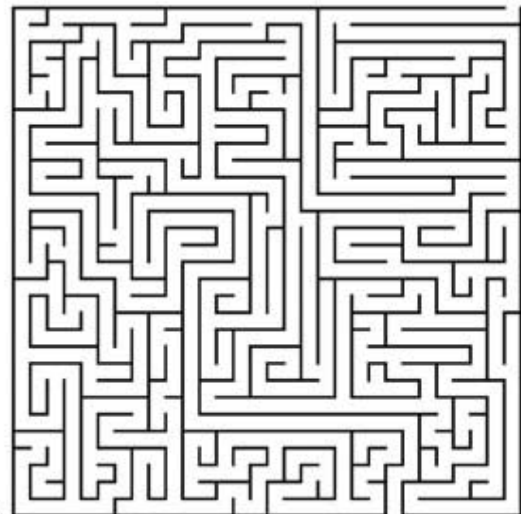
Children aged 9-14 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "Children's Environment Awareness 2006 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores in November during the 2006 National Environment Week".

### Unscramble the words below

1. zdahra
2. rataukheqe
3. aonolvc
4. erearnppesds
5. nmitiaiotg
6. issraedt
7. umntasi
8. gaitdmenu
9. eosgiycpsh
10. gycmereen
11. teergolomoy
12. onbaruyd



### Find your way through his maze



### Word Find

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. HAZARD     | 2. DISASTER  |
| 3. EARTHQUAKE | 4. MEDIA     |
| 5. ERUPTION   | 6. EDUCATION |
| 7. WARNING    | 8. SAFETY    |

C	N	K	I	G	K	O	D	A	C	D	A
A	O	A	A	A	O	A	P	I	L	Q	
E	I	X	C	E	L	M	R	S	P	S	A
R	T	O	G	P	E	B	A	F	W	T	J
U	A	U	N	D	B	S	T	A	T	S	P
P	C	I	I	L	T	G	Y	A	H	E	A
T	U	A	N	E	N	M	H	G	A	R	E
I	D	Q	R	I	Z	A	A	O	Z	O	Y
O	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E	N
N	D	G	W	A	I	H	E	P	R	F	U
W	A	J	A	T	E	F	I	M	D	R	T
T	A	Y	H	A	W	S	A	F	E	T	Y

### Fill in the Gaps

Due to the mass 1 that geo-physical hazards such as 2, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis can have on any community, 3 and awareness becomes critical as some of these 4 do not have a window for 5.

May 2006 had the largest number of earthquakes, including the 6 earthquake which occurred on the 7, and triggered a small 8.

warning, devastation, education, tsunami, magnitude 8.0, hazards, 3rd of May, earthquake

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- SPREP
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Government of Samoa