



# Tsunamis in the Caribbean

This chart is a schematic representation of locally generated tsunamis in the Caribbean. It illustrates recovered and documented evidence but may not represent the absolute number of fatalities as unrecorded tsunamis may have occurred prior to European settlement in the Caribbean.

**KEY**

- Earthquake-generated tsunami
- Volcano-generated tsunami
- Tsunami event



Date	Magnitude	Event Description
1690 April 6	7.5-7.8	Earthquake near Antigua and Nevis believed to have triggered landslides into the sea from Nevis which then generated tsunami waves. These waves were observed in St. Thomas, Nevis and Antigua.
1692 June 7	7.5	The intense shaking generated by the earthquake caused massive liquefaction and coastal subsidence in Port Royal, Jamaica. The water that flowed in to replace the sunken land mass set up waves that were observed in Kingston harbour. The earthquake also caused landslides on the north coast which produced a small tsunami.
1842 May 7	8.3	Tsunami waves up to 2 m were reported on the north coast of Hispaniola. 200-300 lives were lost by the tsunami. The earthquake led to at least 5,000 deaths
1867 Nov 18	7.5	Earthquake and associated landslide in the Virgin Islands generated a tsunami with 4.5-6 m waves, inundating 76 m inland. At St. Croix waves swept 91 m inland damaging 20 houses. Waves were also observed in Puerto Rico, British Virgin Islands, Saba, Saint Martin, Antigua, and Guadeloupe.
1902 May 5 & 7	-	Volcanic eruption of Mt Pelée, Martinique generated a local tsunami ~ 4-5 m in height when a pyroclastic flow entered the sea. Waves are reported to have impacted the town of St. Pierre killing 100 people.
1907 Jan 14	7.5	Earthquake off north coast Jamaica triggered tsunamis possibly associated with submarine landslides. Waves up to 2.5 m affected the north coast.
1918 Oct 11	7.5	Earthquake near Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic triggered tsunami waves 6.1 m. Western Puerto Rico experienced extensive damage with inundation of 100m inland claiming 29 lives. Waves were also observed in the Virgin Islands and the Dominican Republic.
1939 July 24	-	Eruption of Kick 'em Jenny submarine volcano generated numerous tsunami waves with maximum heights up to 2 m observed in northern Grenada, the southern Grenadines and Barbados.
1946 Aug 4	8.1	Earthquake devastated the Dominican Republic, Virgin Islands and Haiti, generated a 2.5 m tsunami that impacted the northeast coast of Hispaniola. Loss of life occurred at Mantanzas (Matancitas), Dominican Republic.
1997 Dec 26	-	Volcanic eruption Soufriere Hills Volcanic eruption of Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat sent a major debris avalanche into the ocean generating tsunami waves that inundated up to 80 m inland. Run-up was also reported in Guadeloupe.
2010 Jan 12	7.0	Devastating earthquake 25km SW of Port au Prince, Haiti (~222,570 fatalities). 4 people killed by a local tsunami in the Petit Paradis area near Leogane. Recorded wave heights (peak-to-trough) of 12 cm at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and 2 cm at Christiansted, US Virgin Islands. Investigations are continuing for this event. (USGS)

[www.uwiseismic.com](http://www.uwiseismic.com)  
 [www.weready.org](http://www.weready.org)  
 [www.cdema.org](http://www.cdema.org)  
**Tsunami AND OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM PROJECT (2010)**

Source: See Teacher Education Resource Kit Appendix.

