

NCIS Coding Tips

January 2005

Australian Earthquake/Tsunami Victims

Unfortunately as the number of Australian fatalities from the Asian Earthquake/Tsunami rises, it is necessary to prepare for the reporting of these deaths to coroners throughout Australia and the subsequent inclusion of these cases in the National Coroners Information System (NCIS).

Foreign Tally (As of 19 th January 2005)		
Country	Confirmed Dead	Missing
Argentina	2	
Australia	23	18
Austria	13	126
Belarus		5
Belgium	6	5
Brazil	2	
Britain	52	464
Brunei		2
Canada	6	30
Chile	1	
China	3	15
Colombia	1	
Czech Republic	1	9
Denmark	8	42
Estonia		3
Finland	15	174
France	22	74
Germany	60	615
Greece		7
Hong Kong	12	40
Hungary		3
Ireland	2	5
Israel	4	3
Italy	20	190
Japan	24	68
Liechtenstein		1
Luxembourg		3
Mexico	2	1
Netherlands	9	30
New Zealand	2	207
Norway	8	80
Philippines	5	10
Poland	1	10
Portugal	1	8
Romania		2
Russia	2	8
Singapore	9	
South Africa	11	15
South Korea	12	8
Spain		2
Sweden	52	637
Switzerland	23	240
Taiwan	3	
Turkey	1	5
Ukraine		17
United States	37	No clear estimate

The table above details the tally of foreigners confirmed dead or missing following the December quake and tsunami in southern Asia. Figures are provided by each countries' foreign ministries. Some countries have included all foreigners who have failed to contact authorities in the missing count while others have only listed those known to have been present at the time of the event.

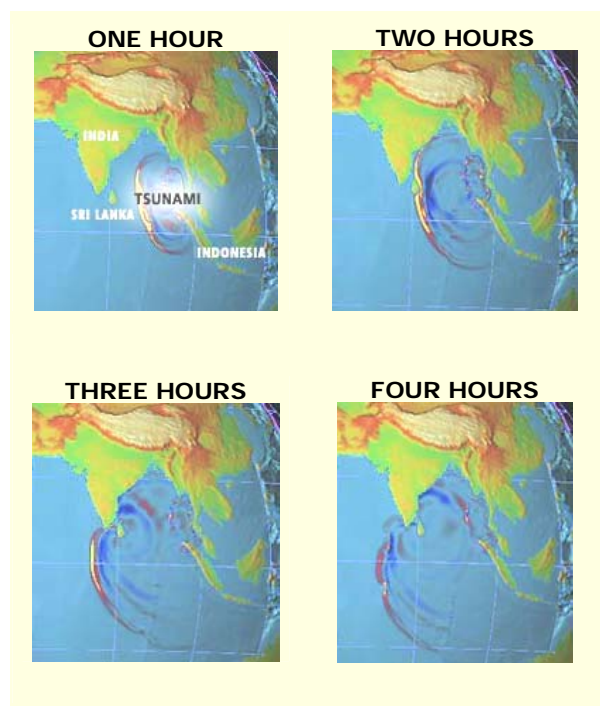
Why do we need specific coding instructions?

As with the Bali bombing victims it is likely that these cases will be extracted from the database as research and articles are published.

To ensure that all related cases can be identified in one search the following advice should be applied to NCIS coding of Tsunami victims in all jurisdictions. Similar instructions will be issued for all NCIS users wishing to extract Tsunami cases.

Note:

Whilst the following advice contradicts NCIS coding principles, is necessary that all cases have the Primary Mechanism of Injury and Primary Object/Substance Producing Injury coded as advised. This will ensure that all Tsunami deaths can be easily identified in the NCIS.



Specific NCIS Data Field Coding for Tsunami Victims

Intent

Unintentional

Residential Address

Australian home address

Location – Incident, Death, Last Seen Alive, Body Found

If exact address unknown enter town/suburb/province as known and then relevant country

Activity

2 – Leisure Activity

2.8 – Other Specified Leisure Activity

Holidaying at time of Tsunami

Note: Activity detailed above is a guide only. Code as per deceased's activity at time of event. If deceased was working code as follows:

3 – Working For Income

Then appropriate code

Primary Mechanism of Injury

U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury

U7 – Natural Disaster, Forces of Nature

Primary Object or Substance Producing Injury

M – Weather, Natural Disasters

M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster

Asian Tsunami

The above directive should be applied in all cases.

Coding Actual Mechanism of Injury

It is probable that the cause of death for the majority of the victims will be either:

- drowning
- blunt force trauma (resulting from debris in the wave) or
- missing, presumed dead

Coders are instructed to use the Secondary 1 and 2 data fields for both Mechanism of Injury and Object/Substance Producing Injury to record manner in which death occurred.

Various examples are detailed on the following page.

Examples of NCIS Coding for Earthquake / Tsunami Victims

The following examples are provided as guides for how the cases may be coded and should not be considered a directive from NCIS.

Example 1 : Death by drowning in Tsunami.

Primary Mechanism of Injury

- U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury
- U7 – Natural Disaster, Forces of Nature

Primary Object/Substance

- M – Weather, Natural Disasters
- M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
- Asian Tsunami

Secondary 1 Mechanism of Injury

- J – Threats to Breathing
- J2 – Drowning and Immersion
- J2.8 – Drowning/Near-drowning: Other
- Asian Tsunami

Secondary Object/Substance

- M – Weather, Natural Disasters
- M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
- Asian Tsunami

Example 2 : Death resulting from blunt force trauma in Tsunami (object unknown).

Primary Mechanism of Injury

- U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury
- U7 – Natural Disaster, Forces of Nature

Primary Object/Substance

- M – Weather, Natural Disasters
- M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
- Asian Tsunami

Secondary 1 Mechanism of Injury

- A – Blunt Force
- A1 – Contact with Blunt Object
- A1.6 – Struck By Moving Object Before Which Person Moved/Was Moved

Note: Possible alternatives for Mechanism of Injury are detailed below (not a full listing)

- A – Blunt Force
- A8 – Other Specified Contact
- Asian Tsunami

- A – Blunt Force
- A3 – Crushing
- A3.8 – Other Specified Crushing
- Asian Tsunami

Secondary Object/Substance

- M – Weather, Natural Disasters
- M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
- Asian Tsunami

Example 3 : Missing, Presumed Dead.

Primary Mechanism of Injury

U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury
U7 – Natural Disaster, Forces of Nature

Primary Object/Substance

M – Weather, Natural Disasters
M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
Asian Tsunami

Secondary 1 Mechanism of Injury

U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury
U8 – Other Specified Mechanism of Injury
Missing, presumed dead due to Asian Tsunami

Secondary Object/Substance

M – Weather, Natural Disasters
M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
Asian Tsunami

Note: Alternative to above Object / Substance could be as follows:
No Object

Example 4 : Death resulting from piercing trauma in Tsunami (object unknown).

Primary Mechanism of Injury

U – Other and Unspecified Mechanisms of Injury
U7 – Natural Disaster, Forces of Nature

Primary Object/Substance

M – Weather, Natural Disasters
M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
Asian Tsunami

Secondary 1 Mechanism of Injury

C – Piercing, Penetrating Force
C2 – Puncturing, Stabbing
C2.8 – Other Specified Puncturing, Stabbing
Debris from Asian Tsunami

Note: Alternative to above Mechanism of Injury could be as follows:
C – Piercing, Penetrating Force
C1 – Cutting, Tearing

C – Piercing, Penetrating Force
C8 – Other Specified Piercing / Penetrating Force
Debris from Asian Tsunami

Secondary Object/Substance

M – Weather, Natural Disasters
M98 – Other specified Weather, Natural Disaster
Asian Tsunami

Note: Alternative to above Object / Substance could be as follows:
The object that was determined to have caused the injury