

# Evaluation of Tsunami Loads on Wood Frame Walls at Full Scale

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## Abstract

The performance of full-scale light-frame wood walls subjected to wave loading was examined using the Large Wave Flume of the Network for Earthquake Engineering (NEES) Tsunami Facility at Oregon State University. The hydrodynamic conditions (water level and bore speed) and structural response (horizontal force, pressure, and deflection) were observed for a range of incident tsunami heights and for several wood wall framing configurations. The walls were tested at the same cross-shore location with a dry bed condition. For each tsunami wave height tested, the force and pressure profiles showed a transient peak force followed by a period of sustained quasi-static force. The ratio of the transient force to quasi-static force was 2.2. These experimental values were compared to the predicted values using the linear momentum equation, and it was found that the equation predicted the measured forces on the vertical wall within an accuracy of approximately 20% without using a momentum correction coefficient. The experiments also showed that the more flexible 2x4 wall resulted in lower peak forces when compared to the 2x6 walls subjected to similar tsunami heights. However, the 2x6 walls were able to withstand larger waves before failure.

CE Database Keywords: tsunami forces, light-frame wood walls, impact, tsunami damage, tsunami mitigation

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40 ***Introduction***

41 The recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Japan in March 2011, along with the  
42 December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami that caused severe damage and loss of life to numerous coastal  
43 communities, underscores the need for a better understanding of tsunami-structure interaction. These  
44 events along with several recent smaller tsunamis have further reminded the world of the vulnerability of  
45 coastal communities during tsunami events. Prior to this disaster little research has focused on tsunami  
46 structure-interaction. A majority of the previous knowledge was from field reconnaissance  
47 (Lukkunaprasit and Ruangrassamee, 2008), or small scale laboratory experiments (e.g., Cross, 1967;  
48 Ramsden, 1996; Lukkunaprasit et al., 2009). Several experiments have been conducted on small scale  
49 vertical walls with regular or random waves, however large scale tsunami loading has been limited  
50 (Arikawa, 2009). Approximately 95% of buildings in the United States utilize light frame wood  
51 construction. For this reason the experiments in this study focus on investigating full-scale wood frame  
52 wall performance, force, and pressure data for solitary waves similar to those that occur during a tsunami.  
53 This paper presents the methodology and results of a large-scale experimental program for tsunami waves  
54 on wooden vertical walls in the Large Wave Flume of the Network for Earthquake Engineering (NEES)  
55 Tsunami Facility at Oregon State University. The purpose of this work was to investigate how a flexible  
56 structure performs when subjected to a solitary wave bore, and compare the measured forces with  
57 predictive equations from the literature. The specific objectives were:

- 58 • To evaluate the linear momentum equation developed for steady flow assumptions, and determine  
59 if the force coefficient,  $C_f$ , developed by Cross (1967) is necessary.
- 60 • To observe the performance of light frame wood walls during a tsunami event.

61  
62 Numerous studies have been conducted on the generation and propagation of tsunamis across the  
63 ocean. However, research on the inundation and subsequent impact of tsunamis on structures is less  
64 common. For many years research has been conducted on wave forces on vertical walls, but a majority of

65 these experiments have been conducted at a small scale. Ramsden (1996) focused on the impact of  
66 translator waves (bores and dry-bed surges) on a vertical wall at a small scale, rather than breaking waves  
67 at a large scale. The measured forces and moments in Ramsden's study should only be used in relation to  
68 sliding and overturning, as they are not applicable to punching failures. Also tested at a small scale were  
69 several scale model houses. Thusyanthan and Madabhushi (2008) investigated the effects of openings and  
70 anchorage on force and pressure for a 1:25 scale model house. Wilson et al. (2009) developed an  
71 understanding of the nature of wave loading on a wood-framed scale residential building model for a  
72 variety of building configurations and test conditions. Testing was performed on a 1/6th scale two-story  
73 wood-framed residential structure. The structure was impacted with waves and tested in both flooded and  
74 non-flooded conditions. The measured forces were mainly uplift forces due to wave loading, and resulting  
75 overturning moments. The qualitative analysis of the data showed that differences in structural stiffness  
76 throughout the structure will cause a different load distribution in the structure, e.g., overhanging eaves  
77 above the garage can provide unanticipated loading conditions, water traveling beneath the structure  
78 generates predominantly uplift forces and the effect of waves breaking on or near the structure greatly  
79 increases the loading. The ratio of force from the windows closed condition to the windows open  
80 condition is approximately 2.5:1. Using the results from the 1/6th scale house, van de Lindt et al. (2009b)  
81 developed a base shear force relationship to wave height.

82

83 Arikawa (2009) used a large-scale hydraulic flume to determine the failure mechanisms due to  
84 impulsive tsunami loads on concrete walls. Based on wave speed and profile that study also focused on  
85 qualitatively dividing surge front tsunami force into three types: overflow, bore, and breaking. Overflow  
86 is defined by a low flood velocity. Bore flow is characterized by quick flow and the inundated tsunami  
87 carries out soliton fission. The third type, breaking, is described where the tsunami breaks in front of the  
88 structure; often caused when the building is close to the shore or a steep sea bed. Oshnack (2010) utilized  
89 the same wave flume and bathymetry discussed in this paper to examine the tsunami load effects from

90 varying the cross shore location of a vertical rigid aluminum wall. Robertson et al. (2011) examined the  
91 forces from waves propagating on a flooded reef, using the same flume bathymetry and aluminum wall as  
92 Oshnack. The results were then compared to equations, including the work of Cross (1967), and a new  
93 equation was developed for use with flooded reef conditions.

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95         Along with the numerous laboratory experiments to study the effects of tsunamis discussed  
96 above, there have been many lessons learned from field reconnaissance. The buildings of the 2004 Indian  
97 Ocean Tsunami in Thailand were analyzed by: Lukkunaprasit and Ruangrassamee (2008),  
98 Ruangrassamee et al. (2006), and Saatcioglu et al. (2006). The hydrodynamic forces from the tsunami  
99 were larger than anticipated and exceeded the design wind loads for the coastal buildings. The poor  
100 construction and detailing standards also contributed to the substantial structural failures observed during  
101 this tsunami.

102

103         A Special Issue of the *Journal of Disaster Research* (Volume 4, Number 6, December 2009)  
104 contained multiple papers that focused on tsunami loading on structures. Arikawa (2009) performed  
105 large-scale experiments in Japan investigating performance of both concrete and wooden walls under  
106 impulsive tsunami forces. A large majority of the work focused on the performance of various concrete  
107 walls thicknesses, and didn't provide any direct force measurements for the wooden walls. Arikawa tested  
108 only one wooden wall eight concrete walls, and only provided a sequence of photographs showing the  
109 destruction of the wooden wall. Arikawa concluded that the walls would break when a 2.5m tsunami  
110 force hit the walls. Oshnack et al. (2009) evaluated the effectiveness of seawalls in reducing tsunami  
111 forces on an aluminum wall and van de Lindt et al. (2009a) measured lateral force on one-sixth scale  
112 residential building typical of North American coastal construction due to tsunami wave bores. Several  
113 authors examined tsunami forces on various structures: Arnason et al. (2009), Fujima et al. (2009), and  
114 Lukkunaprasit et al. (2009).

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For the case of uniform steady flow impinging on a vertical boundary, the force per unit width,  $F$ , can be estimated using the conservation of linear momentum (Cross, 1967) as

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \rho g h^2 + \rho h u^2 \tag{1}$$

where  $\rho$  is the fluid density,  $g$  is the gravitational constant,  $h$  is the water depth of the flow, and  $u$  is the depth uniform velocity. For the case of a wedge of water with non-uniform flow, Cross (1967) gives

$$F = \frac{1}{2} \rho g h^2 + C_f \rho h u^2 \tag{2}$$

where  $C_f$  is a force coefficient and can be related to the angle  $\theta$  made by the leading edge to the dry bed. The force coefficient is small for small angles and varies  $1 < C_f < 1.5$  for  $\theta$  in the range  $0 < \theta < 30$  degrees. Comparing to laboratory observation using a small, 6.9 m long by 0.15 m wide, glass walled flume, Cross (1967) found that Eq 1 adequately predicted the force for surges with surface slopes less than 10 to 15 degrees, and gave some indication that the force coefficient in Eq 2 should be used to predict the sharp peak resulting from splash back of water after the initial impact. An objective of this work is to use large-scale tests to evaluate whether Eq 1 holds for the case of an unsteady bore impinging on a wall or whether a correction coefficient,  $C_f$ , is needed.

For clarity, since both the maximum force and the quasi-steady force are related to the hydrodynamic conditions for a tsunami bore impinging on a fixed object, the term “transient force” is used to describe the peak force during the initial bore-structure interaction, and “quasi-static force” is used to describe the quasi-static force as the bore is reflected from the structure.

139 ***Experimental Setup***

140 **Wave Flume Bathymetry**

141 The experiments were conducted at the NEES Tsunami Facility in the Large Wave Flume (LWF) at the  
142 O.H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory at Oregon State University. The flume was 104 m long, 3.66 m  
143 wide and 4.57 m deep. The flume was equipped with a piston type wavemaker with a 4 m stroke and  
144 maximum speed of 4 m/s, with the capacity of generating repeatable solitary waves. The LWF  
145 bathymetry consisted of a 29 m flat section in front of the wavemaker, followed by a 1:12 slope  
146 impermeable beach for 26 m, with the rest of the flume consisting of a flat section on a 2.36 m high false  
147 floor. This section will be referred to as the “reef” to be consistent with other experiments conducted at  
148 the O. H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory (e.g., Robertson et al., 2011). The LWF bathymetry is  
149 shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**, including the test specimen in relation to the wavemaker.

150

151 **Flume Instrumentation**

152 The LWF was instrumented (**Error! Reference source not found.**) with ten wire resistance wave gages  
153 (WG) and four ultrasonic wave gages (USWG) along the flume to measure variations in the instantaneous  
154 water surface level as the wave moved inland. These gauges were calibrated at the start of the experiment  
155 and when the flume was drained and refilled. WG 1 to 10 were placed at x-positions of 17.64 m, 28.60 m,  
156 35.91 m, 40.58 m, 42.42 m, 44.25 m, 46.09 m, 48.23 m, 50.37 m, and 54.41 m respective to the  
157 wavemaker in the zeroed position. USWG 1 was co-located with WG 4 (40.58 m), and this enabled the  
158 calibration of the other surface piercing gages. USWG 2 and 3 were located at x-positions 54.35 m and  
159 58.07 m respectively. A fourth USWG was located on the moveable bridge at x-position 21.50 m. The  
160 wavemaker was instrumented with sensors to track the wavemaker x-position and water level on the  
161 wavemaker board. The LWF was also equipped with four acoustic-Doppler velocimeters (ADV) to  
162 collect wave particle velocities at (x, y, z) positions, meters, of: ADV 1 (43.33, -1.10, 1.67), ADV 2  
163 (47.01, -1.08, 1.95), ADV 3 (54.24, -1.28, 2.45), and ADV 4 (57.89, -1.33, 2.45). The locations for these

164 wave profile and velocity instruments can be found in **Error! Reference source not found.** The velocity  
165 from ADV 4, 0.09 m above reef, and wave height from USWG 3 were used in calculating Eq 1, because  
166 they were co-located closest to the structure. WG 2 was used to measure the offshore tsunami wave  
167 height,  $H_2$ .

168

### 169 **Specimens and Configurations**

170 The test specimens used in these experiments were flexible wood walls built to International Residential  
171 Code (ICC, 2009) standards commonly found in residential and light commercial construction. During  
172 the transverse wood wall (TW) experiments three different specimens were used (  
173 Table 1). The first specimen used was “Specimen 1”, a 2x6 (38 mm x 140 mm) vertical stud wall  
174 sheathed with 13 mm (0.5 inch) 5-ply Structural 1 plywood. Two replicates (1A,B) of Specimen 1 were  
175 built and tested. The wall was 3.58 m (11.75 ft) long and 2.44 m (8 ft) high having a stud spacing of 40.6  
176 cm (16 inches) on center. The second wall, “Specimen 2,” was the same dimension as Specimen 1, but  
177 was made with 2x4 (38 mm x 88 mm) dimension lumber instead of 2x6 vertical studs. Two replicates  
178 (2A,B) of specimen 2 were built and tested. The last specimen was “Specimen 3,” which was a similar  
179 2x6 wall as Specimen 1, but had a stud spacing of 61 cm (24 inches) instead of 40.6 cm. Only one  
180 specimen 3 (3A) was built and tested.

181

182 All the walls utilized a nailing pattern of 10.2 cm (4 inches) on center on edges and 30.5 cm (12  
183 inches) on center in the field, with 8d common nails (63.5 mm long x 2.87 mm dia.). Each wall was  
184 constructed with Douglas-fir, kiln dry, #2 and better studs, and utilized double end studs.

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186 During the eight different TW tests, see Table 2, three different anchorage and load cell  
187 configurations were utilized. Only the first four experiments are analyzed in this paper, because they have  
188 similar configurations and allow for comparison to Eq 1. For experiments “TransverseWoodWall\_1” (TW



189 1), “TransverseWoodWall\_2” (TW 2), “TransverseWoodWall\_3” (TW 3), the wall was only anchored to  
190 the four horizontal load cells. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows a picture of the wall and load  
191 cells, and **Error! Reference source not found.** shows a schematic of the wall with instrumentation. For  
192 the “TransverseWoodWall\_4” (TW 4) experiment the bottom sill was anchored to the flume floor with  
193 six anchor bolts (1.59 cm dia.) at distances of 0.41 m, 1.11 m, and 1.68 m from the center of the wall. The  
194 individual specimen information can be found in Table 1 and a summary of each experiment  
195 configuration and specimen used are shown in Table 2.

196

### 197 **Wall Instrumentation**

198 The walls were equipped with uni-axial donut shaped load cells with a capacity of  $\pm 89$  kN ( $\pm 20$  kip). The  
199 TWs were equipped with four load cells, one at each corner of the wall (**Error! Reference source not**  
200 **found.**). They were mounted between a metal bracket bolted to the flume wall and a plate attached to the  
201 wall. This configuration measured the horizontal forces imposed on the wall during the tsunami event,  
202 and allowed for comparing the predicted forces from Eq 1 to the measured forces. Three pressure  
203 transducers were also installed on each wall at varying heights. The pressure transducers were mounted to  
204 aluminum plates, which were then placed into small holes in each wall. The walls were also equipped  
205 with two linear variable differential transformers (LVDT) at the middle of the wall to measure the  
206 deflection of the wall at critical locations. The LVDTs were placed at heights of 0.04 m (bottom plate)  
207 and 2.18 m (top plate) from the bottom of the wall. When the wall was anchored, TW 4, the bottom  
208 LVDT was moved up to, 1.22 m, the mid height of the wall. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows  
209 a picture of a TW 1 with all the instrumentation. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the location  
210 of each instrument for a typical TW experiment, and **Error! Reference source not found.** Table 3  
211 summarizes the load cell and LVDT locations.

212

## 213 *Experimental Procedure*

### 214 **Data Acquisition and Processing**

215 Hydrodynamic data (free surface displacement and velocity) were collected at a sampling rate of 50 Hz.  
216 Force, pressure, and displacement data were collected with a sampling rate of 1000 Hz. The experiment  
217 names and trial numbers correspond to those in the experimental notebook supported under the Network  
218 for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) program of the National Science Foundation. Data from  
219 this project can be found on the NEEShub at <http://nees.org/>.

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### 221 **Experimental Process**

222 As indicated in **Error! Reference source not found.**, the experiments were performed with a dry reef.  
223 When the wavemaker was in the zero position the water level was set at 2.38 m. The wavemaker was then  
224 retracted, causing a decrease in the still water depth to 2.29 m, referred to as  $D_o$ . This gives a depth below  
225 the reef of -0.07 m, referred to as  $D_R$ . Idealized solitary waves were used to model a tsunami caused by  
226 the forward motion of the wavemaker paddle. Because of the finite volume of the flume, this produced a  
227 still water level approximately +0.03 above the reef at the end of each run. For each experiment the wall  
228 configuration was tested at an x-position of 61.23 m from the wavemaker. During the eight different TW  
229 tests a total of 60 trials were run with a range of wave heights between 0.09 m and 1.04 m. The number of  
230 trials, wave heights, specimens used, load cell configuration, and failures are outlined in Table 2 for each  
231 individual experiment.

### 232 *Unprocessed Data*

233 **Error! Reference source not found.** shows a portion of the raw data from TW 1 Trial01 tests with  $H_2 =$   
234 0.29 m as an example of the hydrodynamic forcing conditions and the structural response. Fig 6a shows  
235 the free surface time series measured at WG 2 at the toe of the slope (Fig 1) and is used to estimate the  
236 offshore tsunami height,  $H_2$ . Fig 6b shows the free surface profile of the bore over the reef measured by

237 the third ultrasonic wave gage (USWG3) located 3.6 m seaward of the wall and is used for  $h$  in Eq 1. Fig  
238 6c shows the velocity measured by the fourth ADV (A4) co-located with USWG3 and used to provide  $u$ .  
239 Severe signal dropout occurred in the ADV record during the passing of the leading edge due to air  
240 entrainment. Thus, it was necessary to extrapolate the signal back to arrival of the bore indicated by  
241 USWG3. Independent video measurements show that this is a reasonable approximation and that the  
242 maximum velocity occurs at the leading edge for this type of flow (Rueben et al., 2011). Use of the  
243 extrapolated velocity increased the predicted forces in Eq 1 by an average of 18%. **Error! Reference**  
244 **source not found.**d shows the measured and extrapolated momentum flux per unit width,  $hu^2$ . **Error!**  
245 **Reference source not found.**e shows the pressure measured on the wall. **Error! Reference source not**  
246 **found.**f shows the measured total force found by summing the four load cells at each time interval. The  
247 transient force (circle) is highlighted as the maximum force in the figure and occurs after the initial  
248 impact and is related to the collapse of the water column after impact. The quasi-static force is estimated  
249 as the mean of the total force measured for a period of 1.0 s, starting 0.5 s after the peak transient force  
250 was observed and is indicated by a horizontal line. During this time, the bore has reflected from the wall  
251 and is propagating back over the reef at a speed slower than the incident bore. It is important to note that  
252 no impulsive forces (defined as a sudden sharp rise in force of short duration during the initial interaction  
253 of the bore with the wall) were observed in these tests. **Error! Reference source not found.**g shows the  
254 deflection of the structure measured by LVDTs along the centerline of the specimen measured at the top  
255 plate ( $D1$ ,  $z = 2.36$  m) and bottom plate ( $D2$ ,  $z = 0.4$  m). These deflection measurements are used to assess  
256 the relative performance under transient and quasi-static load of the different wall assemblies described  
257 earlier.

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## 259 *Results and Discussions*

### 260 **Observed Maximum Transient Force and Quasi-static Force**

261 **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the measured maximum transient force and average quasi-  
262 static forces defined in **Error! Reference source not found.** as a function of the offshore tsunami height  
263  $H_2$  measured at the toe of the slope. It is apparent that both the transient and quasi-static forces increase  
264 with offshore tsunami height. The variation in the transient force can be considered linear, although it  
265 does not pass through the origin, possibly due to the inertial effects of accelerating the wall at impact.  
266 The variation in the quasi-static force is also linear overall, except possibly for the larger observed wave  
267 heights ( $H_2 > 0.55$  cm) where there is larger scatter in the data, shown by the large error bars for these  
268 points. At  $H_2 = 0.50$  cm, more experiments were done to see the repeatability of the experiment. The  
269 forces at this level have a COV of 4% and are within a 95% confidence interval, showing that the  
270 experiment was repeatable. In any case, it is of interest to compare the relative magnitudes of transient  
271 force to quasi-static force as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.**. For this case, the  
272 relationship appears to be linear ( $R^2 = 0.938$ ) with transient force being larger than the quasi-static force  
273 by a factor 2.2 overall.

274

### 275 **Comparison with Cross (1967)**

276 The predicted forces from Eq 1 were compared to the measured transient forces. For this comparison, the  
277 predicted force per unit width  $F$  was multiplied by the breadth of the wall, 3.66 m. The maximum  
278 momentum flux per unit mass,  $hu^2$ , was estimated using the extrapolated velocity, and the flow depth,  $h$ ,  
279 from USWG3. The hydrostatic pressure term in Eq 1 was calculated using the flow depth corresponding  
280 to the maximum momentum flux.

281

282 **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the measured transient force from TW 1, TW 2, and TW 3.  
283 These three experiments were chosen because they were unanchored along the bottom sill, so the force

284 from the wave was measured by the four load cells. Trials with small tsunami wave heights ( $H_2 \sim 0.1$  m)  
285 were excluded because of the poor quality of the ADV data due to air entrainment. As can be seen in  
286 **Error! Reference source not found.**, Eq 1 gives reasonable predictions of the peak transient force within  
287 an accuracy of about 20%. The force coefficient,  $C_f$ , was calculated using Eq 2, and the average was  
288 found to be  $C_f = 0.96$  for this data set. Therefore, from a practical standpoint it is not necessary to include  
289  $C_f$  to obtain reasonable estimates of the transient forces for engineering design. It is noted that although  
290 Cross (1967) expresses  $C_f$  as a function of the angle of the leading edge, such detailed information about  
291 the flow would likely be unavailable for engineering design. The hydrodynamic inputs (bore height,  
292 velocity, and moment flux) are provided in Table 4 along with the measured transient and quasi-static  
293 forces.

294

#### 295 **Wall Performance**

296 For most cases there were not enough pressure transducers to properly calculate the force. Instead they  
297 were primarily used to show that the pressures were comparable for similar wave heights. **Error!**  
298 **Reference source not found.** compares the pressure (8a) and total force (8b) measured on three walls  
299 (TW 1, TW 2, and TW 3) with different framing configurations with the same incident tsunami conditions  
300 ( $H_2 = 0.29$  m). The pressure was taken as the average of P2 and P3 located  $z = 20$  cm from the bottom of  
301 the wall. For the wall construction, TW 1 and TW 2 had the same stud spacing (40.6 cm, or 16 inch on  
302 center) and TW 3 had a larger stud spacing (61.0 cm or 24 inch on center). TW 1 and TW 3 used the  
303 same dimensional lumber for the studs (2 x 6 studs), and TW 2 used smaller studs (2 x 4). All three used  
304 the same sheathing (1/2 inch plywood) and bottom sill (2 x 6). Therefore, it can be said that TW 1 was  
305 the stiffest of the three chosen for comparison, and other two were less stiff because they used smaller  
306 studs (TW 2) or greater stud spacing (TW 3). **Error! Reference source not found.**a shows that the  
307 pressure exerted by the tsunami on the wall were similar, indicating that each wall was subjected to a  
308 similar wave loading, with peak pressures at about 4 kPa. The peak transient force responses were similar

309 for TW 1 and TW 3 indicating that the stud spacing had little effect on the measured peak forces (**Error!**  
310 **Reference source not found.**b). However, the measured forces on TW 2 were measurably lower by  
311 about 25% because the smaller studs led to a greater deformation of the wall assembly thereby lowering  
312 the peak force. This reduction in load is only evident during transient force, before stabilizing to a similar  
313 quasi-static force as the other two walls. The same trends were observed for the range of wave heights  
314 tests for these three wall configurations, with an average transient force reduction in TW 2 of about 18%.  
315 This is a significant reduction in the forces that would be subsequently transferred to the rest of the  
316 structural systems when part of a building.

317  
318 This reduction in transient force could be in direct relation to the flexibility of each wall. **Error!**  
319 **Reference source not found.** shows the maximum deflection at  $z = 2.36$  m, the top plate (9a), and  $z =$   
320  $0.04$  m, the bottom plate (9b), along the centerline of the wall as a function of the offshore tsunami height.  
321 The overall deflection of both the top and bottom plates are larger for TW 2 (square symbols). The  
322 increased flexibility of the 2x4 wall shown by higher deflections compared to the stiffer 2x6 walls, allows  
323 for dampening of the initial impact of the wave. This in turn reduces the transient forces on the wall. It  
324 should be noted that although the 2x4 wall was shown to reduce the transient force, the wall failed at a  
325 smaller wave height ( $H_2 = 0.65$  m) than the similar 2x6 wall, because the 2x4 walls flexural capacity was  
326 lower. Although the forces on the overall system were reduced by the 2x4 wall, due to lower strength  
327 capacity, 2x6 construction should be used in tsunami zones.

328  
329 The three transverse walls analyzed above show a good trend between wall flexibility and  
330 transient forces on each wall. However these walls were unanchored along the bottom plate, which is an  
331 uncommon scenario in standard building construction. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the  
332 complete failure of the bottom plate during Trial 16 of the unanchored wall test, TW 1, with a measured  
333 offshore wave height  $H_2 = 0.87$  m. This failure was observed as the impact of the wave exceeded the

334 bending capacity of the bottom sill plate (2x6 dimensional lumber, nominal capacity 1700 N-m). It is  
335 important to note that this bending failure likely will not occur if the bottom plate is anchored in typical  
336 residential construction standards, as shown in later tests. When the bottom plate was anchored to the  
337 flume floor during TW 4, this bending failure was no longer seen. The unanchored wall failed at a small  
338 wave height, while the anchored wall was not tested to failure because the physical limitations of the  
339 facility had been reached.

340

### 341 *Summary and Conclusions*

342 In this study a series of idealized, large-scale two-dimensional tsunami wave tests were performed on  
343 light frame wood walls used in typical coastal construction. The following can be concluded based on the  
344 work presented in this paper:

- 345 1. Transient forces were generated by the impact of the bore on a wall shortly after the initial  
346 impact. This was followed by a quasi-static force after the bore reflected from the structure. No  
347 impulsive forces were observed for these tests.
- 348 2. The ratio of the peak transient force to mean quasi-static force was 2.2 overall.
- 349 3. Eq 1 from Cross (1967) gives a good estimate of the measured peak transient force within about  
350 20% uncertainty, and it was not necessary to include the momentum correction coefficient,  $C_f$ , in  
351 Eq 2.
- 352 4. The standard of construction can affect the peak transient force experienced by the wall by  
353 approximately 20% for the three types of construction considered here. This reduced peak  
354 transient force would either be transferred to other parts of the building system or would  
355 contribute to permanent deformation of the wall and ultimately failure.
- 356 5. The quasi-static forces were similar for the three different wall specimens.
- 357 6. The controlling failure of the unanchored walls was bending of the bottom plate.

358

359           This study represents a significant step towards understanding the complex nature of wave-  
360 structure interaction, and the performance of light-frame wood construction often used in residential and  
361 light commercial buildings. By better understanding the failure modes of a wood wall during a tsunami  
362 event, building designs can be improved to better protect life safety and mitigate costly damage, however,  
363 occupants of light-framed residences should be encouraged to evacuate when there is a tsunami warning  
364 in effect. Further research is necessary to investigate the effects of openings, three-dimensional flow, and  
365 plan irregularities on stress and load concentrations within a more complex structural system.

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### 367 ***Acknowledgements***

368   This research was supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. CMMI-0530759. The  
369 tsunami facility is supported in part supported by the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake  
370 Engineering Simulation (NEES) Program of the National Science Foundation under Award  
371 Number CMMI-0402490. The authors also thank the O. H. Hinsdale Wave Research Laboratory staff  
372 for their invaluable support.



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419

420 **List of Tables**

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428 Table 1: Specimen Information

<b>Specimens</b>	<b>Stud Spacing (cm)</b>	<b>Lumber Size (Nominal)</b>	<b>Wall Length (m)</b>
Specimen 1A,B	40.6	2x6	2.67
Specimen 2A,B	40.6	2x4	2.67
Specimen 3A	61.0	2x6	2.67

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432 Table 2: Experiment Summary

<b>Experiment</b>	<b>Trials</b>	<b>Wave Heights <math>H_2</math> (m)</b>	<b>Specimen</b>	<b>Anchored</b>	<b>Load Cells</b>	<b>Failure</b>
TW 1	12	0.10-0.87	1A	No	4	Yes
TW 2	7	0.10-0.65	2A	No	4	No
TW 3	6	0.20-0.78	3A	No	4	Yes
TW 4	11	0.15-1.04	1B	Yes	4	No
TW 5	11	0.14-0.93	1B	Yes	2 top	No
TW 6	4	0.25-0.68	2B	Yes	4	No
TW 7	4	0.26-0.71	2B	Yes	2 top	No
TW 8	5	0.09-0.48	2B	No	4	Yes

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437 Table 3: Load Cell and LVDT locations

<b>Experiment</b>	<b>Instrument</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
-	-	(m)	(m)	(m)
<b>Load Cell (L)</b>				
Transverse Walls <sup>A</sup>	L1 <sup>B</sup>	61.44	-1.65	0.33
	L2	61.44	-1.65	1.85
	L3	61.44	1.65	1.85
	L4 <sup>B</sup>	61.44	1.65	0.33
<b>Linear Variable Differential Transformer (D)</b>				
TW 1 – 3 & TW 8 (unanchored)	D1	61.44	0	2.36
	D2	61.44	0	0.04
TW 4 – 7 (anchored)	D1	61.44	0	2.36
	D2	61.44	0	1.22

x-location is measured from zeroed wavemaker

y-location is measured from center of flume

z-location is from base of test specimen

<sup>A</sup> Trials 1-6 for initial experiment TransverseWoodWall: L1 and L2 were switched locations

<sup>B</sup> Load cells 1 and 4 removed for experiments TransverseWoodWall\_5 and TransverseWoodWall\_7

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443 Table 4: Transient and Quasi-state Forces with hydrodynamic inputs

<b>Experiment</b> -	<b>H<sub>2</sub></b> <b>(m)</b>	<b>h</b> <b>(m)</b>	<b>μ</b> <b>(m/s)</b>	<b>hμ<sup>2</sup></b> <b>(m<sup>3</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Transient</b> <b>Force</b> <b>(kN)</b>	<b>Quasi-static</b> <b>Force</b> <b>(kN)</b>
TW1 Trial01	0.30	0.157	2.990	1.402	5.25	2.42
TW1 Trial02	0.48	0.204	3.176	2.053	9.12	4.55
TW1 Trial03	0.48	0.201	3.262	2.137	10.59	4.92
TW1 Trial04	0.48	0.185	3.568	2.352	9.60	5.07
TW1 Trial05	0.66	0.219	4.873	5.208	14.88	6.12
TW1 Trial08	0.48	0.173	3.806	2.498	11.29	5.01
TW1 Trial09	0.48	0.210	3.289	2.274	9.85	4.89
TW1 Trial10	0.48	0.205	3.470	2.466	10.18	4.78
TW1 Trial15	0.20	0.140	2.441	0.836	2.39	1.33
TW2 Trial02	0.20	0.158	2.308	0.841	2.47	1.58
TW2 Trial03	0.29	0.160	2.990	1.433	3.88	2.31
TW2 Trial04	0.38	0.163	3.225	1.692	6.38	2.99
TW2 Trial05	0.48	0.161	3.447	1.911	7.72	4.12
TW2 Trial06	0.57	0.192	4.028	3.118	10.86	4.55
TW3 Trial01	0.29	0.096	3.044	0.893	5.19	2.17
TW3 Trial02	0.20	0.162	2.414	0.944	2.83	1.38
TW3 Trial03	0.38	0.169	3.765	2.390	7.92	3.33
TW3 Trial05	0.73	0.248	4.231	4.442	16.31	5.98

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