A dramatic photograph of a tsunami wave crashing over a coastal area. The wave is massive, with white foam and spray reaching high into the air. In the background, several green trees are visible, partially obscured by the spray. In the foreground, a blue vehicle is partially submerged in the turbulent water. The sky is a deep blue.

# **Research Needs for Structural Design for Tsunamis**

**Ian Robertson and Gary Chock**

Minami Soma photo by Sadatsugu Tomizawa

# Development of Performance Based Tsunami Engineering - PBTE

Originally submitted – Feb. 2004; Resubmitted Feb. 2005

NSF Funding: 2005-2010



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Geno Pawlak (ORE)**



**Gary Chock  
Lyle Carden**



**George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake  
Engineering Simulation (NEES)**





# PBTE Project Outcomes

- Improvement in modeling tsunami transformation through wave breaking and inundation (Cheung)
- Improved understanding of “fluidization” or scour enhancement by increased pore pressures (Young)
- Tsunami bore loading on structural elements
  - Individual and multiple columns (shielding, etc) (Robertson)
  - Solid and perforated walls (Robertson, Riggs)
  - Uplift on floor slabs, piers and wharfs (Robertson)
- Culminating in current development of Tsunami Loads and Effects chapter for ASCE 7 (2016) (Chock)
  - ASCE 7-TLE Subcommittee formed February 2011
  - Bi-annual meetings (second in Oct. 2011 in Portland)
  - Objective - Develop TLE chapter for ASCE 7 by June 2013

# **Proposed Scope of the ASCE Tsunami Design Provisions**

## **2016 edition of the ASCE 7 Standard, Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures**

### **ASCE 7 Chapter 6 - Tsunami Loads and Effects**

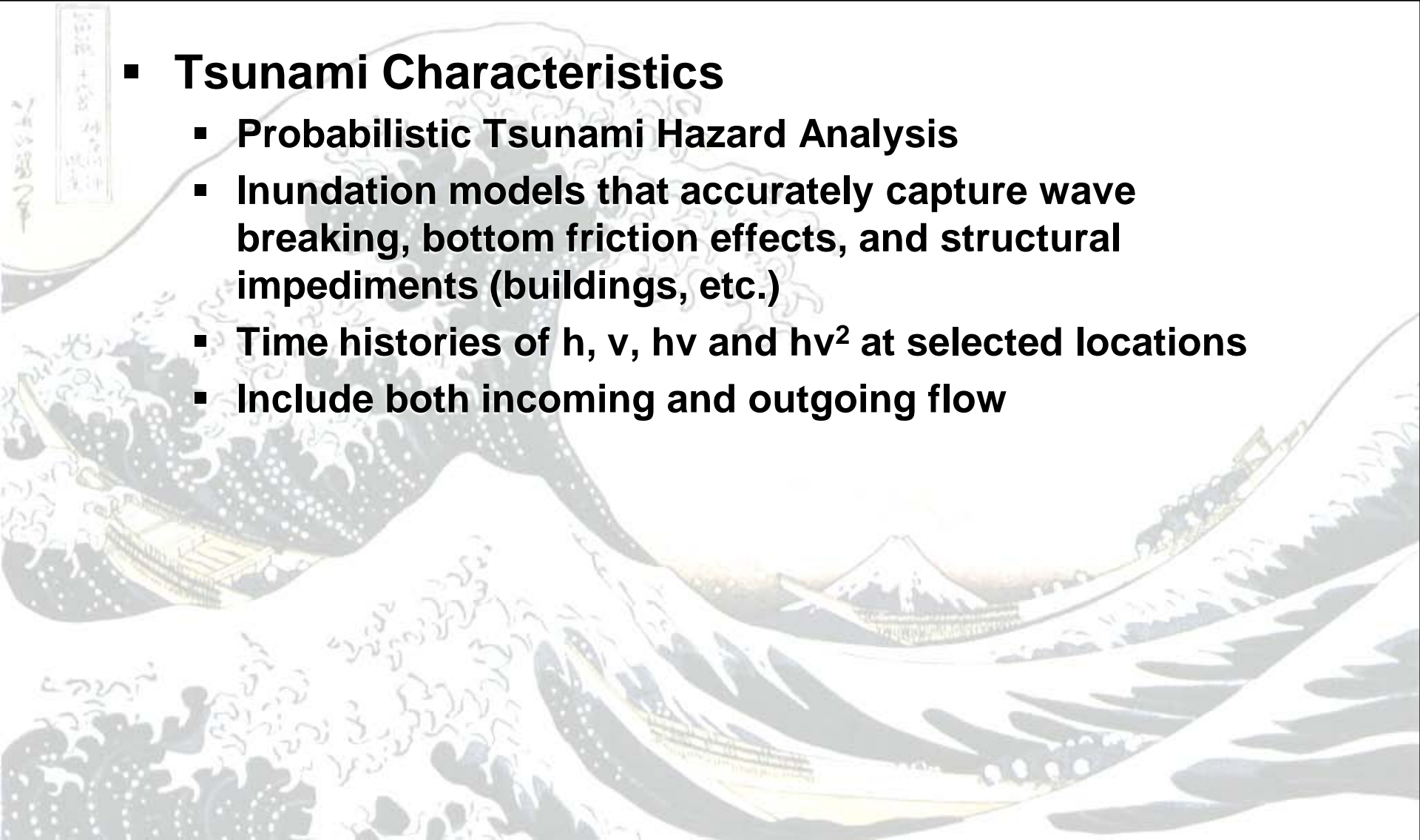
- 6.1 General**
- 6.2 Definitions**
- 6.3 Symbols and Notation**
- 6.4 Tsunami Design Criteria**
- 6.5 Tsunami Depth and Velocity**
- 6.6 Design Cases**
- 6.7 Hydrostatic Loads**
- 6.8 Hydrodynamic Loads**
- 6.9 Waterborne Debris Loads**
- 6.10 Foundation Design**
- 6.11 Structural mitigation for reduced loading on buildings**
- 6.12 Non-building critical facility structures**
- 6.13 Nonstructural Systems (Stairs, Life Safety MEP)**
- 6.14 Site-Specific Analysis and Design Procedure Requirements**
- 6.15 Special Occupancy Structures**

# Tsunami Performance Design Objectives (Concept)

	Performance Levels				
Tsunami Frequency	Operational	Repairable Occupancy	Life Safe	Collapse Prevention	Collapse Likely
Occasional (100 years)	Light-Frame Residential Elevation Check				
Rare (500 years)	Essential Facilities Vertical Evacuation Risk Category II (tall enough buildings)				
Max Considered (2500 yrs)	Risk Category II and III Risk Category II (not tall enough)				

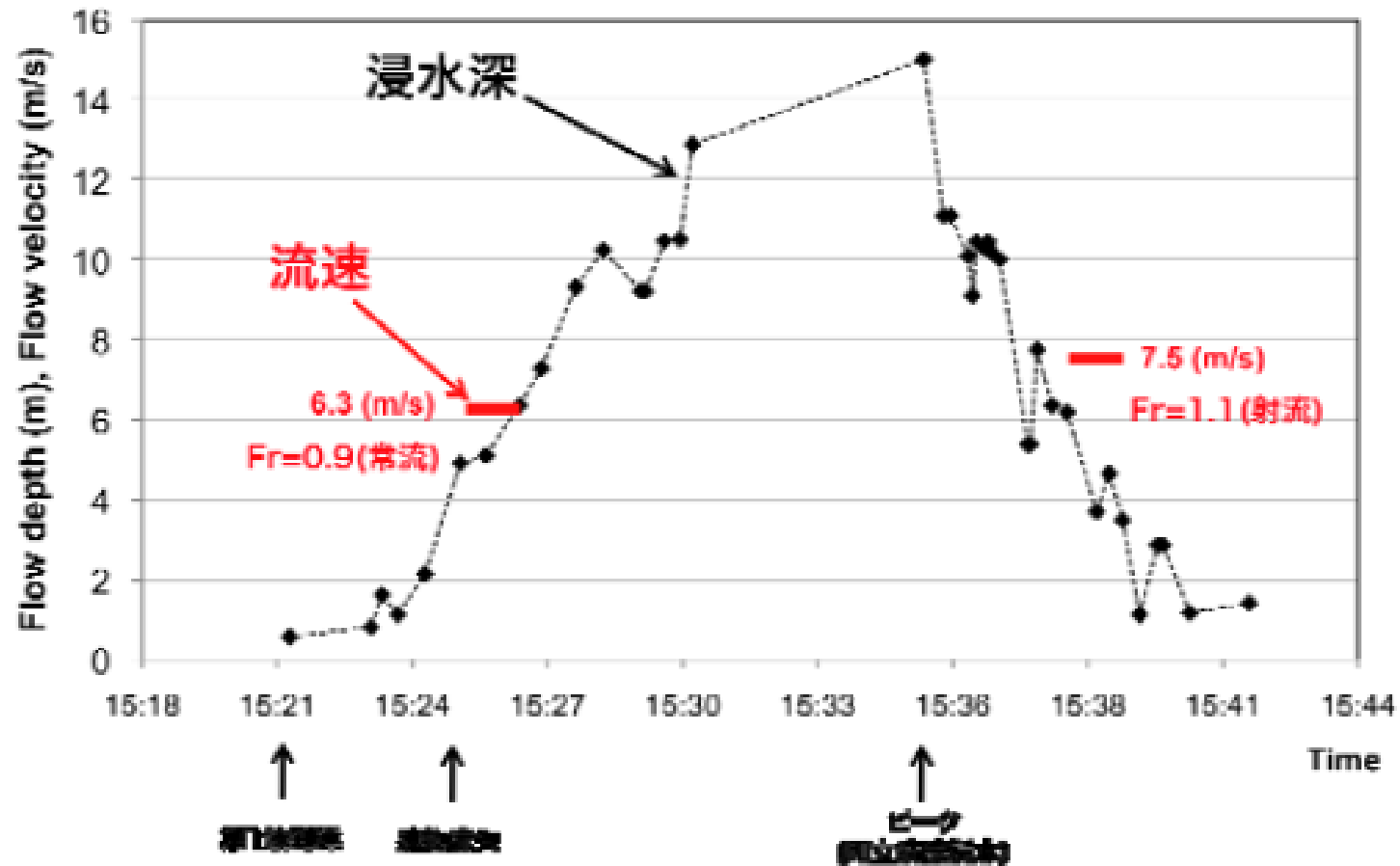
# Tsunami Research Needs

- **Tsunami Characteristics**
  - Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Analysis
  - Inundation models that accurately capture wave breaking, bottom friction effects, and structural impediments (buildings, etc.)
  - Time histories of  $h$ ,  $v$ ,  $h v$  and  $h v^2$  at selected locations
  - Include both incoming and outgoing flow





# Onagawa Flow Depth Time-History



From Koshimura of Tohoku University

# Structural Response Research Needs

## ▪ Loading on Structures

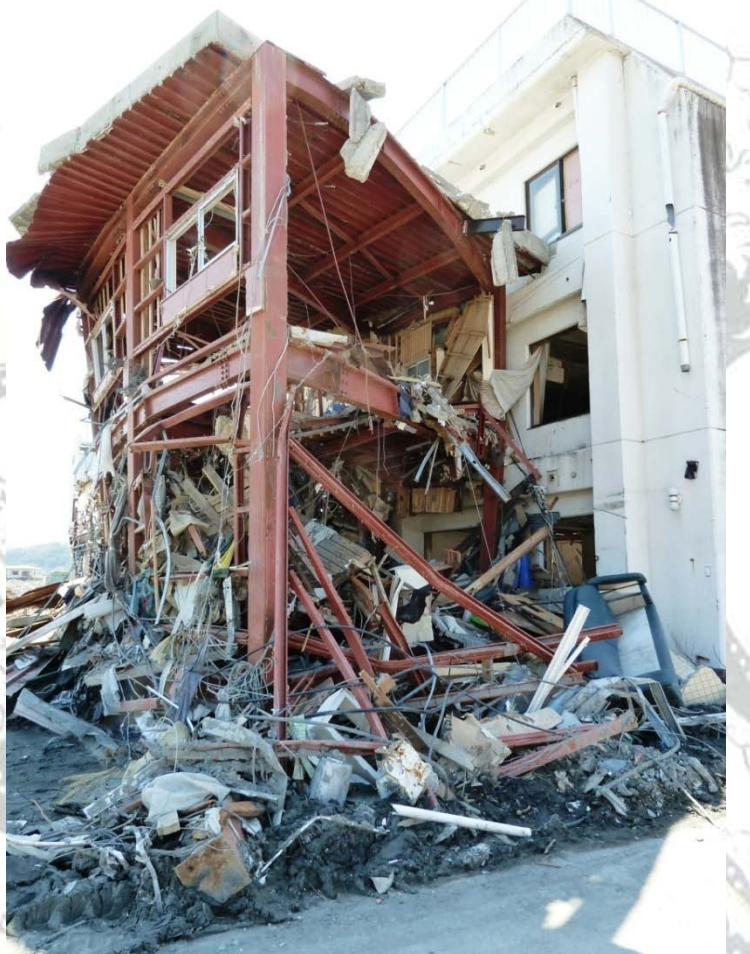
- Hydrodynamic loading resulting from tsunami time-history, both incoming and outgoing flow
- Development of time-history flow in wave flumes to replace soliton waves and dam break experiments
- Effect of sediment and debris on hydrodynamic loading

## ▪ Structural Response

- Develop loading time-history based on flow time-history
- Effect of “breakaway” non-structural elements
- Effect of debris damming – degree of blockage
- Effect of debris impact – probability of impact severity
- Non-linear structural response



# Building Performance - Debris Loading




Three-Story SMRF collapsed and pushed into concrete building



Three-Story SMRF with 5 meters of debris load accumulation wrapping

# Structural Survey Research Needs

- 
- The background of the slide features a traditional Japanese woodblock print style illustration. It depicts a massive, curling tsunami wave in shades of blue and white. Several wooden sailing ships are shown being tossed by the waves. In the distance, the snow-capped peak of Mount Fuji is visible under a pale sky. The overall scene conveys the immense power and scale of a tsunami.
- **Tsunami Survey**
    - Detailed recording of structural performance
    - Sampling of material properties
    - Reverse-analysis of structural response to verify tsunami loading
    - Damage transects to aid in development of fragility curves



# Building Performance – Total Building Overturning



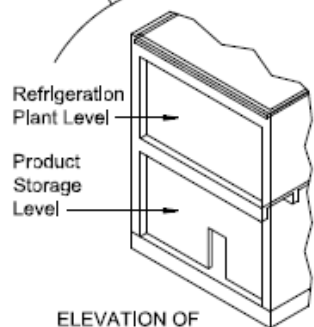
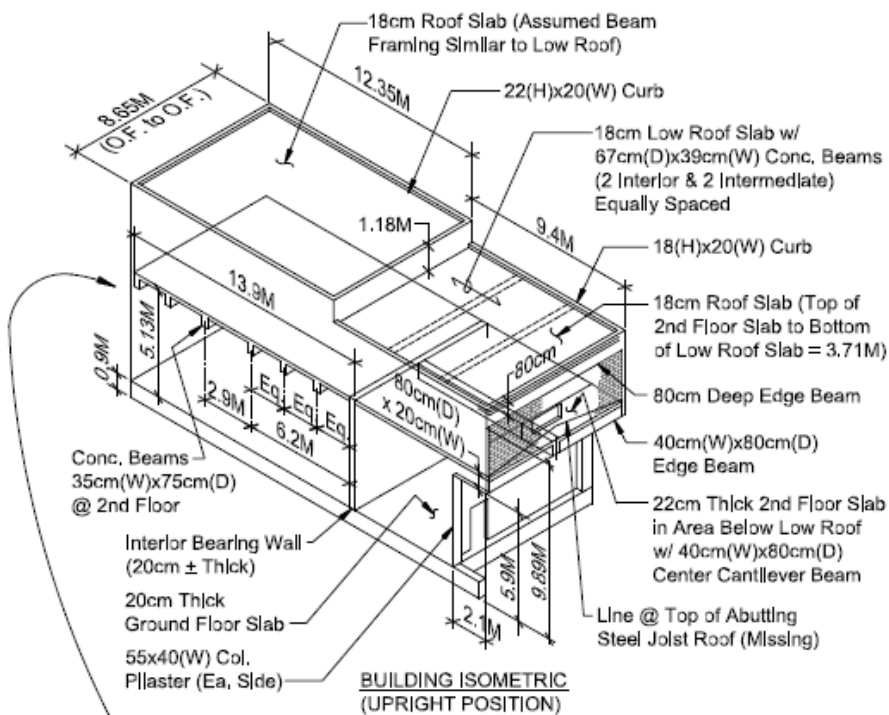
Two-Story Refrigerated Concrete Warehouse (9000 kN deadweight) on Bearing Piles floated at 7 m inundation depth during inflow and then overturned about 20 meters from original position after floating over 2 m wall



Three-Story Concrete Retail Building (2050 kN deadweight) on mat foundation overturned during return flow when submerged in 8 m/s flow; would have toppled at only 3 m/s



## Building Performance – Total Building Overturning

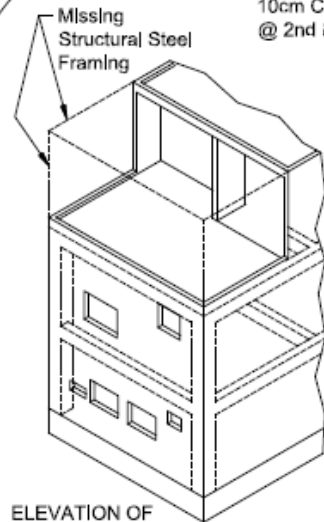
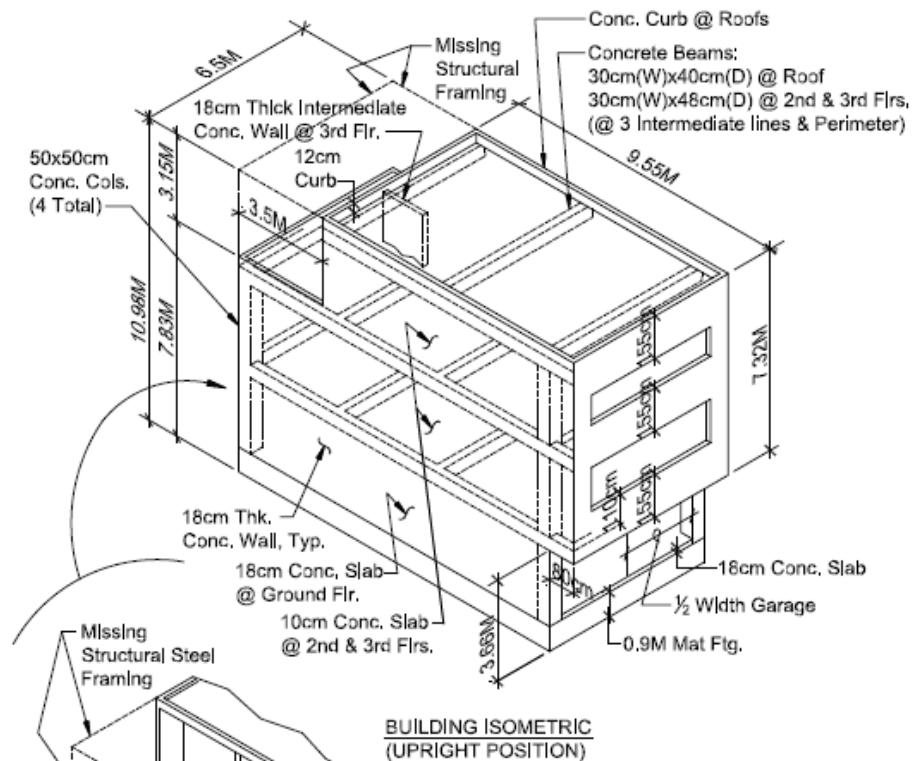


ELEVATION OF  
FAR SIDE WALL

OVERTURNED FISH REFRIGERATION BUILDING - ONAGAWA  
(SHIFTED ABOUT 20 METERS)

141°26'48.22" 38°26'26.70"

GARY CHOCK



ELEVATION OF  
FAR SIDE WALL

ONAGAWA "HEALTH SUPPLEMENT" BUILDING  
(OVERTURNED IN RETURN FLOW)

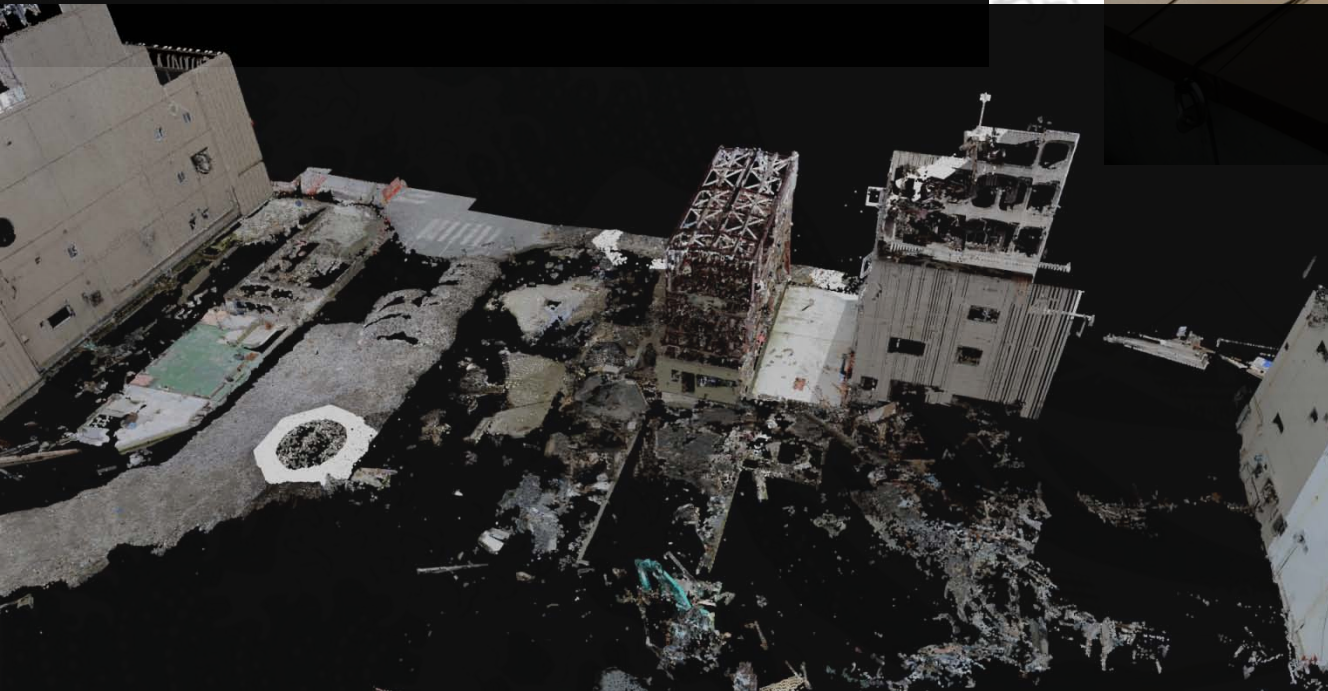
141°26'30.80" 38°26'37.44"



PHOTO OF OVERTURNED BUILDING  
(Chock)

GARY CHOCK

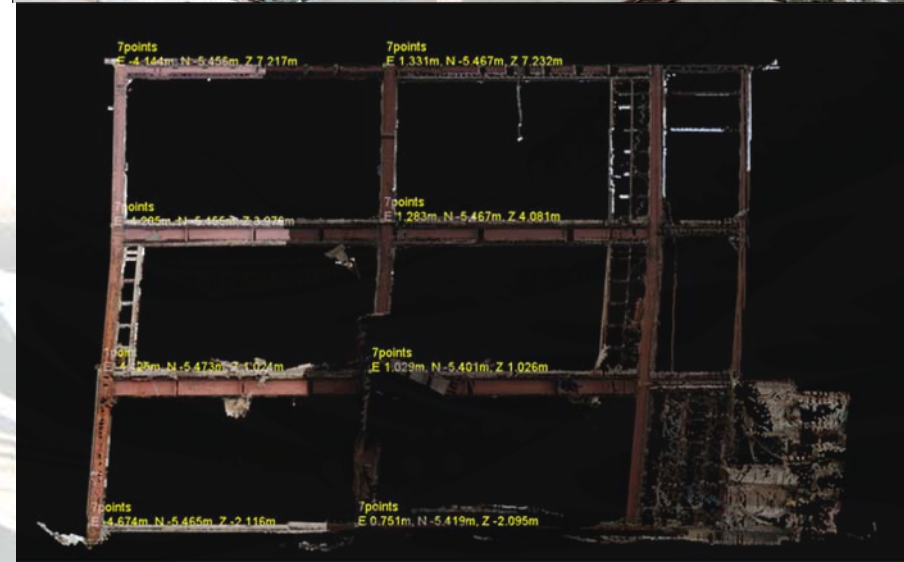
# Onagawa Built Environment Captured with LiDAR





# Onagawa Three-Story Steel Building Frame Survival by Load Reduction

- This three-story steel moment-resisting frame exposed to 8 m/s outflow estimated from video analysis.
- At about 67% blockage of the original enclosure (33% open), the return flow is sufficient to yield the top and bottom of the second story columns with 30-cm drift of third floor (First story column is stronger section.)
- Subsequently sustained flow induced further displacement until loss of all cladding finally reduced the building's projected area. Otherwise collapse of cladded building would have occurred.
- LiDAR scan shows final 50-cm third floor drift.





# Sendai Example

Minami Gamou STP

## Tsunami Bore Strike on R/C Structure



**Minami Gamou Wastewater Treatment Plant - subjected to direct bore impact**

# Sendai Example

Minami Gamou STP

## Tsunami Bore Strike on R/C Structure



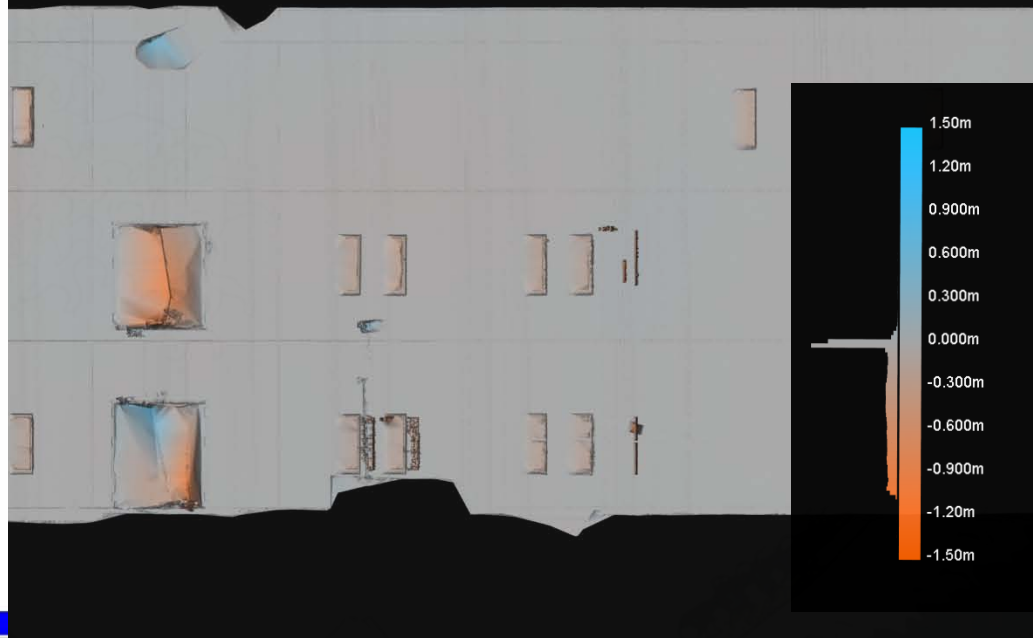
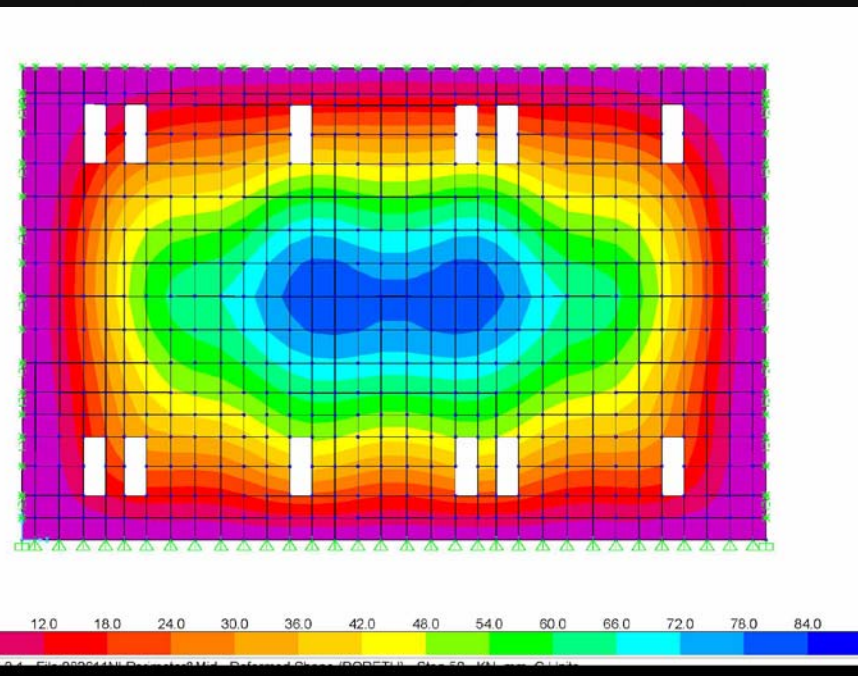
**Minami Gamou Wastewater Treatment Plant - subjected to direct bore impact**



# Sendai Example

Minami Gamou STP

## Tsunami Bore Strike on R/C Structure



**Minami Gamou Wastewater Treatment Plant - subjected to direct bore impact**



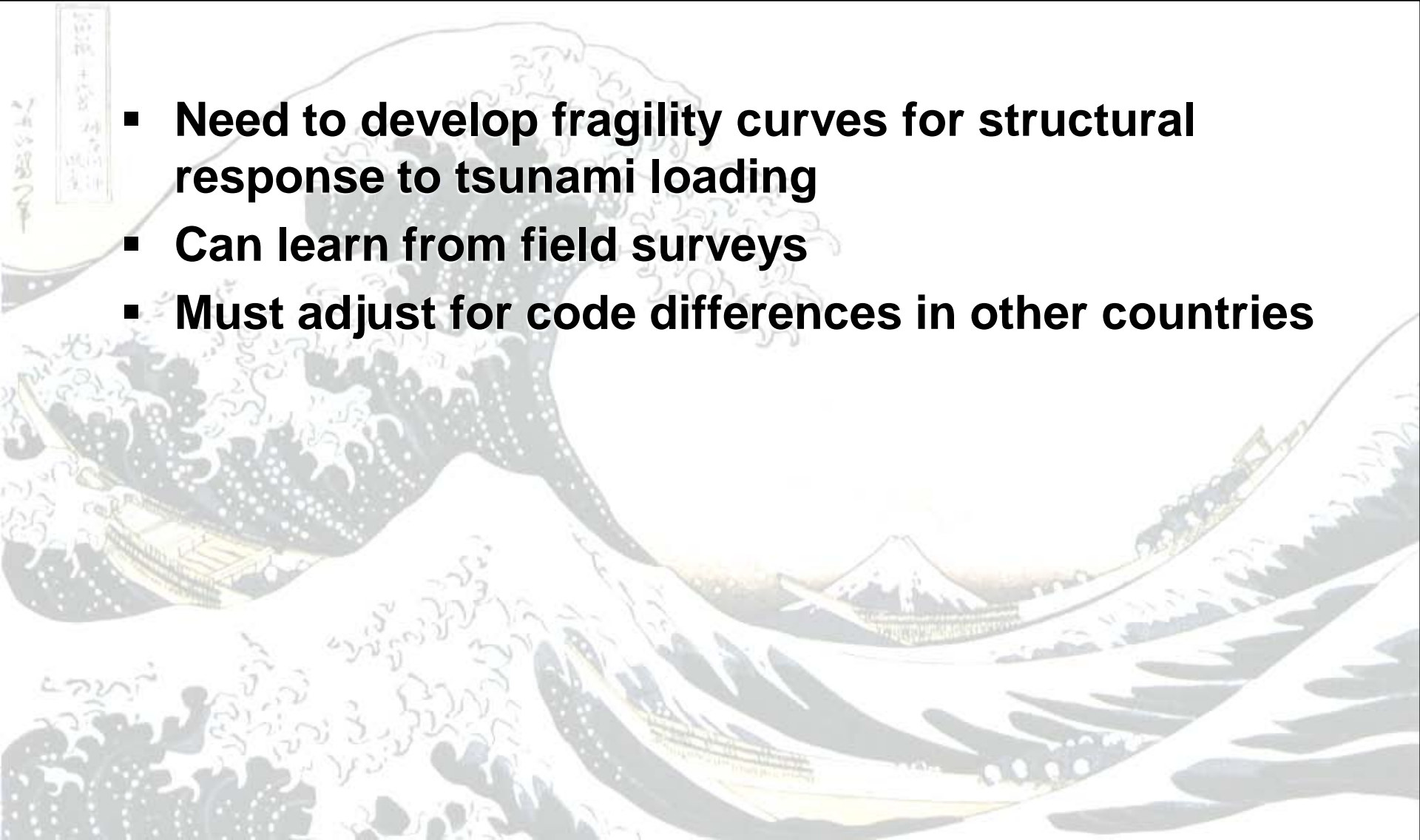
# Sendai R/C Structure



**Minami Gamou Wastewater Treatment Plant**

# Structural Fragility

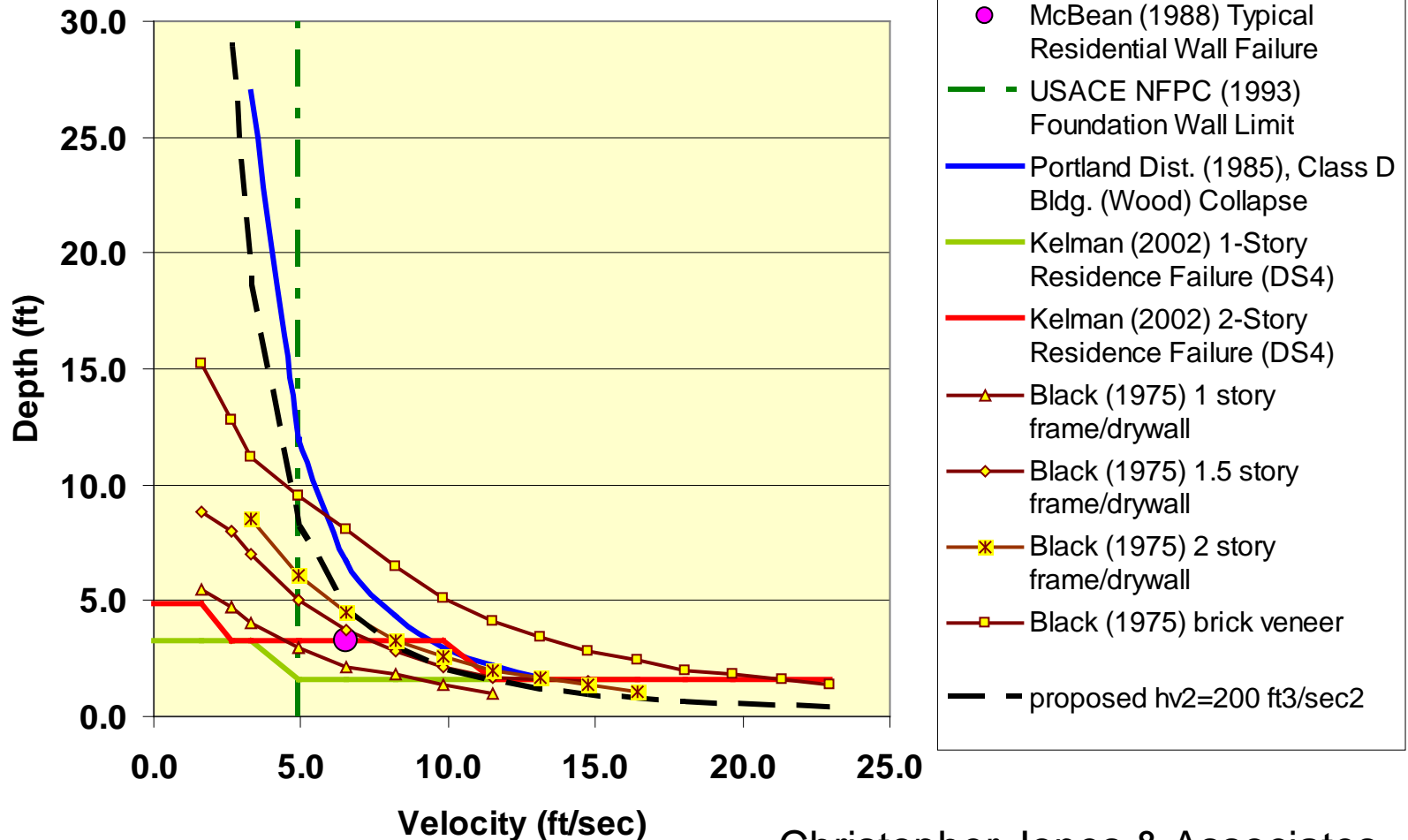
- **Need to develop fragility curves for structural response to tsunami loading**
- **Can learn from field surveys**
- **Must adjust for code differences in other countries**



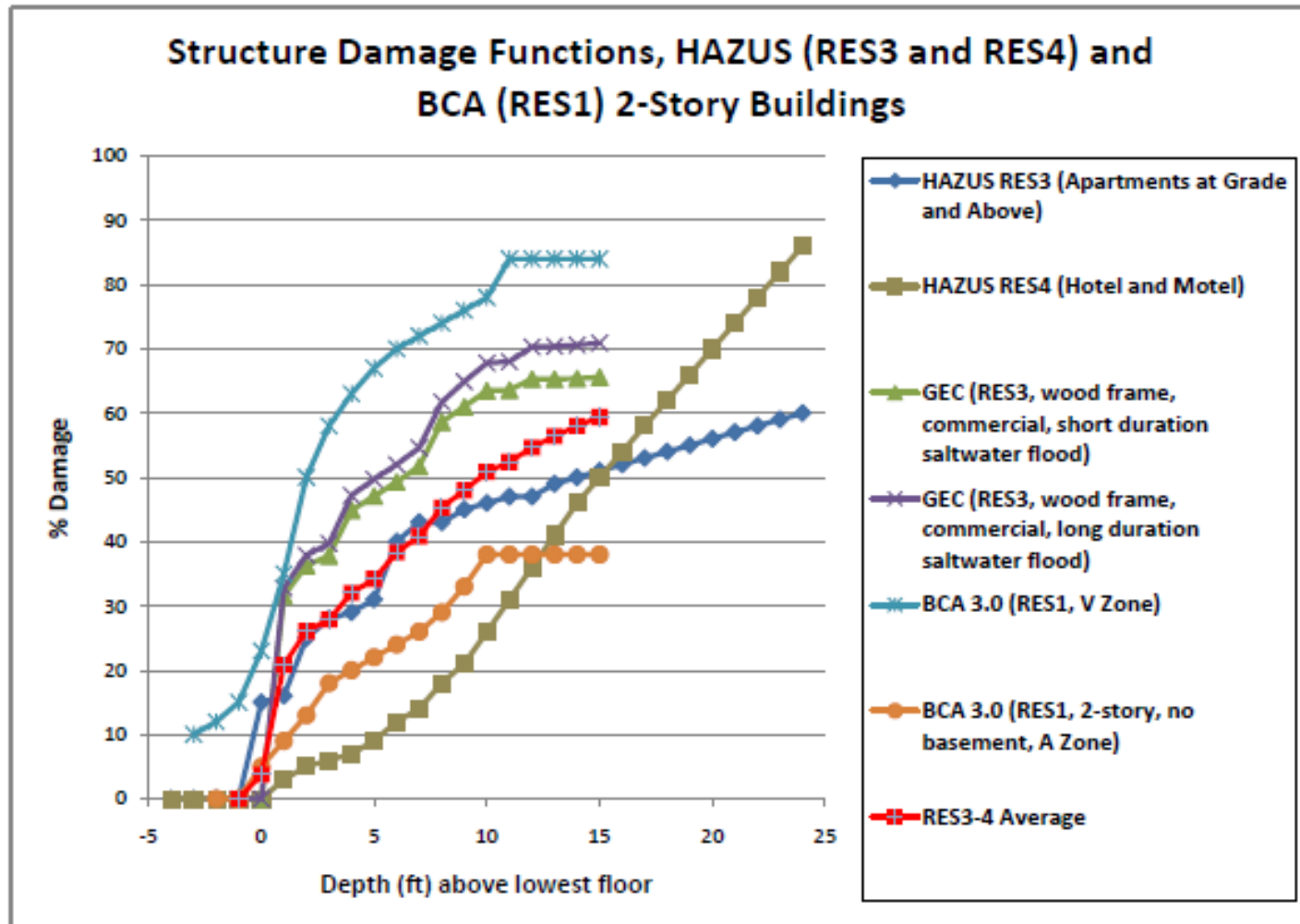


# Wood Residential Building Failure

Flood Depth and Velocity Associated with Building Failure/Collapse



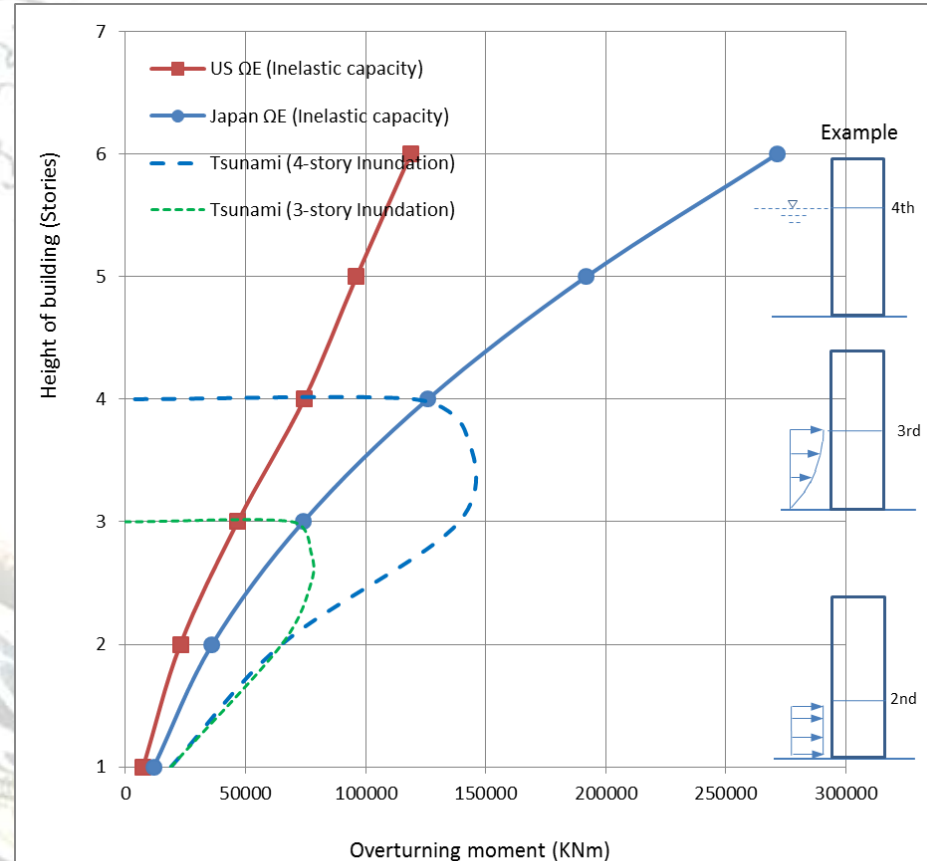
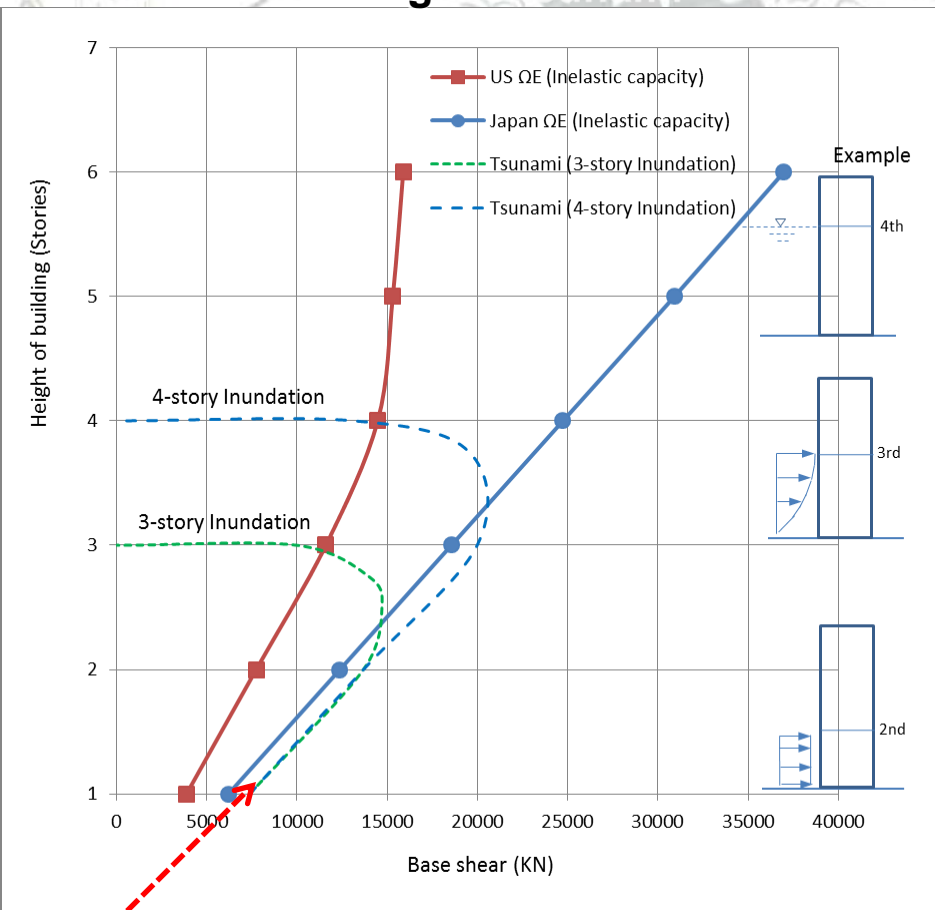
# Fragility curves for coastal flooding





# Comparing Low-Rise High Seismic (SMRF) vs. Max. Tsunami Loads

- Assume undamaged by Earthquake); evaluate max. capacity per  $\Omega \times$  required E
- Building is 25% open
- Each load curve represents the sequence of hydrodynamic loading as inundation increases during the tsunami



# Financial Implications

## ■ Cost of Tsunami Design

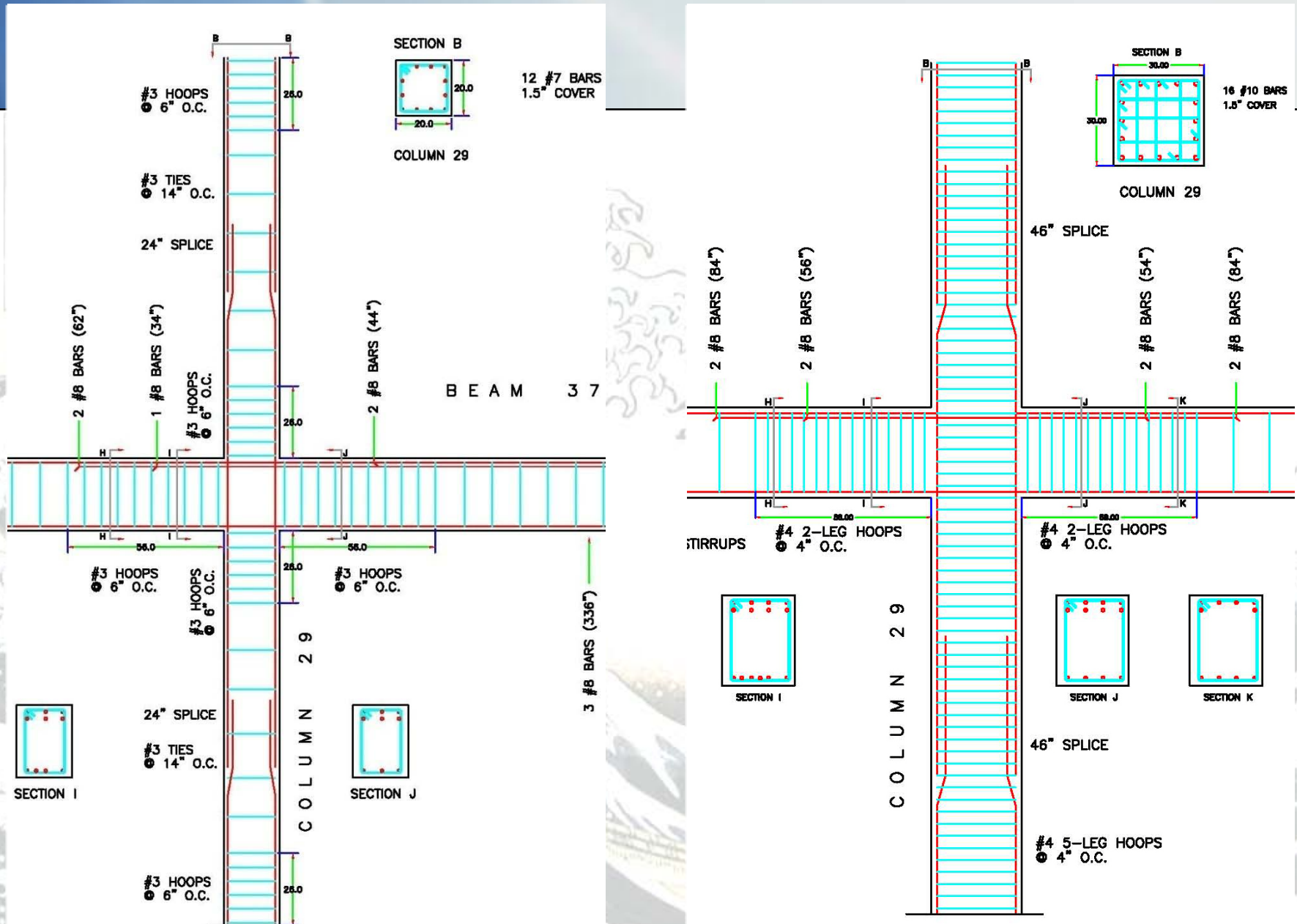
- 16 prototypical buildings designed for seismic and wind
- Redesign for various tsunami scenarios
- Evaluate increased construction cost

## ■ Prototypical Buildings

- (3) 12 Story RC Office Buildings (MRF)
- (3) 12 Story RC Residential Buildings (Shear Walls)
- (3) 12 Story Steel Office Buildings (EBF)
- (3) 4 Story PC Parking Structures (CIP, PT)
- (3) 3 Story RC School Building (Bearing wall)
- 4 Story Steel Shopping Mall (Concentric BF)



# Intermediate and Special Detailing



# Financial Implications

- **Loss and repair costs**
  - Casualties
  - Loss of contents
  - Structural and non-structural repair
  - Downtime





Any Questions?

