



# ***Lessons Learned from Tsunami Damage in Sri Lanka***

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## ***Synopsis;***

*Around 300,000 people were killed by the tsunami that followed the Sumatra—Andaman earthquake on Boxing Day 2004, making it one of the worst disasters in modern history. Up to 40,000 died in Sri Lanka alone, where around 80,000 houses were also destroyed when waves up to 15 m high swept ashore. This paper reports on how coastal buildings and infrastructure in Sri Lanka behaved under various tsunami wave heights and the many lessons learned for reducing vulnerability to future events. In particular, newly published national guidelines for reconstruction emphasis the importance of tying down structures against upward and lateral loads as well as the need to anticipate and reduce soil scour around foundations, especially of backfilled earth.*