



National Weather Service



TSUNAMI SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

BEFORE A TSUNAMI

It is easy to prepare for a tsunami. Many preparedness actions are common across hazards. **If your home, school, workplace, or other places you visit are in tsunami hazard zones:**

- ✓ **Have multiple ways to receive warnings.** Get a NOAA Weather Radio, sign up for text message alerts from your local government, and verify that your mobile devices receive wireless emergency alerts.
- ✓ **Make an emergency plan** that includes plans for family communication and evacuation.
- ✓ **Map out routes** from home, work, and other places you visit to safe places on high ground or inland and outside the tsunami hazard zone. Your community may have identified evacuation routes and assembly areas. Plan to evacuate on foot if you can; roads may be impassable due to damage, closures, or traffic jams.
- ✓ **Practice walking your routes**, even in darkness and bad weather. This will ease evacuation during an emergency.
- ✓ **Put together a portable emergency kit.** Include items you and your family (including pets) may need in an emergency. Prepare kits for work and cars, too.

If you have children in school in a tsunami hazard zone, find out the school's plans for evacuating and keeping children safe.

If you are visiting the coast, find out about local tsunami safety. Your hotel or campground should have this information.



Discuss your plan with your loved ones. Credit: FEMA

DURING A TSUNAMI

If you are in a tsunami hazard zone and receive an *official* warning:

- ✓ **Stay out of the water and away** from beaches and waterways.
- ✓ **Get more information from radio**, television, or your mobile device (text or data).
- ✓ **If officials ask you to evacuate**, go quickly to high ground or inland.

If you are in a tsunami hazard zone and receive a *natural* warning (see back), a tsunami could arrive within minutes:

- ✓ **In case of an earthquake**, protect yourself. Drop, cover, and hold on.
- ✓ **As soon as you can move safely**, go quickly to high ground or inland. Do not wait for an official warning or instructions from officials.
- ✓ **If there is earthquake damage**, avoid fallen power lines and weakened structures.
- ✓ **When you are in a safe place**, get more information from radio, television, or your mobile device (text or data).

If you are on the beach or near water and feel an earthquake of any size and length, go quickly to high ground or inland as soon as you can move safely.

If you are *outside* of the tsunami hazard zone and receive a warning, stay where you are unless officials tell you otherwise.

AFTER A TSUNAMI

- ✓ Stay out of the tsunami hazard zone until officials say it is safe. The cancellation of a warning does not mean the danger has passed.
- ✓ Stay out of any building with damage or water around it until a professional or official says it is safe.
- ✓ Get updates and safety instructions from radio, television, or your mobile device (text or data).
- ✓ Contact your family and loved ones. Let them know you are okay.

For more information, visit weather.gov/safety/tsunami



KNOW **WHEN** TO RESPOND



TSUNAMI ALERTS

In the United States, there are four levels of tsunami alerts:

- ✓ **Tsunami Warning:** Take Action—Danger! A tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. Evacuation is recommended. Go to high ground or inland.
- ✓ **Tsunami Advisory:** Take Action—A tsunami with potential for strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected or occurring. There may be flooding of beach and harbor areas. Stay out of the water and away from beaches and waterways.
- ✓ **Tsunami Watch:** Be Aware—A distant earthquake has occurred. A tsunami is possible. Stay tuned for more information. Be prepared to take action if necessary.
- ✓ **Tsunami Information Statement:** Relax—An earthquake has occurred, but there is no threat, or it was very far away and the threat has not been determined. In most cases, there is no threat of a destructive tsunami.

Tsunami warnings are broadcast through radio, television, and wireless emergency alerts. They may also come through outdoor sirens, officials, text message alerts, and telephone notifications.

Pay attention to and follow instructions from local emergency officials. They may have more detailed or specific information.

NATURAL WARNINGS

There may not be time to wait for an official warning. A natural tsunami warning may be your only warning. Natural warnings include:

- ✓ **A strong or long earthquake**
- ✓ **A sudden rise or fall of the ocean**
- ✓ **A loud roar from the ocean**

If you experience any of these natural warnings, even just one, a tsunami could be coming.

If you live, work or play at the coast, you should prepare for tsunamis:

www.weather.gov/safety/tsunami

