



# TSUNAMI

Tsunamis are series of waves triggered by an earthquake or underwater landslide offshore. A tsunami can move at hundreds of miles per hour and can be 10'–100' high. Even 10-foot tsunamis can be very destructive. Areas near the coast and less than 25' above sea level are at the most risk for a tsunami.



## *How to Prepare for a Tsunami*

- Stay informed and know tsunami terminology:
  - **Advisory**—An earthquake that could produce a tsunami has been detected.
  - **Warning**—A tsunami that could cause damage has or may have been produced. People in the warned area are strongly advised to evacuate.
  - **Watch**—A tsunami has or may have been generated and has a travel time to the area of at least two hours.
- Determine whether you live or work in an area with the potential to be hit by a tsunami. Determine where tsunami signs are located.
- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Develop an evacuation procedure as a family. You should identify a place to evacuate that is at least 100 feet above sea level or two miles inland. You should be able to reach it within 15 minutes.

## *What to Do If There Is a Tsunami*

- Stay tuned to the radio or TV for more information or instructions. Authorities will issue a warning only if they are certain a threat exists.
- Stay away from the beach.
- A large recession of the water is nature's warning of a tsunami. Heed this as you would an official warning.
- There may be little time between a warning and the tsunami, so if you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If you hear an official tsunami warning or are told to evacuate:
  - Immediately get to higher ground, preferably a previously identified area.
  - Take your emergency kit.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

## *What to Do After a Tsunami*

- Continue to listen to news reports for further information and instructions.
- Stay clear of flood waters, either standing or moving, as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.



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### ***What to Do After a Tsunami (Continued)***

- Stay clear of damaged areas until you are told otherwise.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid any roads where waters have receded, as they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be extremely cautious when entering buildings and homes, as there may be unseen damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water, as it can contain sewage and other contaminants.

### ***Where to Find Additional Information***

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—<https://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—  
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/>
- American Red Cross—<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tsunami>
- Ready Army—[www.ready.army.mil](http://www.ready.army.mil)

**It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.**

