



Tsunami

Tsunamis are a series of waves most often caused by undersea earthquakes or landslides. These waves can travel at speeds exceeding hundreds of miles per hour and reach heights of 10 to 100 feet.

Even relatively small tsunamis pose a significant destructive threat. Coastal areas and those less than 25 feet above sea level are particularly vulnerable to tsunami effects.



Tsunami Terminology

- **Advisory**—An earthquake or landslide 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.

Tsunami Preparedness & Response

Tsunami Preparedness:

- Determine if your home or workplace is in a potential tsunami zone.
- Locate tsunami warning signs in your area.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit.
- Develop a family evacuation plan:
 - Identify an evacuation location at least 100 feet above sea level or two miles inland.
 - Ensure the evacuation location is reachable within 15 minutes.

During a Tsunami:

- Monitor radio/TV for official information and instructions. Warnings are issued only when a threat is confirmed.
- Stay away from the beach.
- A significant water recession is a natural warning sign – treat it as an official warning.
- Evacuate immediately if a warning is issued or you are instructed to do so.
- Proceed to higher ground, bringing your emergency kit.
- Military/Government personnel & Selective Reservists: Report to your command once safe.

After a Tsunami:

- Continue monitoring news reports for updates and instructions.
- Avoid floodwaters (standing or moving) due to potential contamination and hidden depths.
- Stay clear of damaged areas until authorities deem them safe.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid roads with receding water – they may be structurally compromised.
- Exercise extreme caution, unseen damage may exist.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/tsunamis>
- United States Geological Survey (USGS): <https://www.usgs.gov/water-science-school/science/tsunamis-and-tsunami-hazards>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/ocean-coasts/tsunamis>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/tsunamis>
- American Red Cross—<http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tsunami>
- Ready Army: <https://www.army.mil/ready>

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. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.



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