

Tsunami Safety Advice

National Weather Service
West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center

Be Prepared BEFORE a Tsunami strikes:

- *Know the tsunami history and flooding elevation of your area
- *Learn the location of nearest shelter/safe area.
- *Learn the safe route to shelter.
- *Have on hand emergency supplies for at least three (3) days
- *Keep your emergency supplies in a backpack near your door.
- *Know how to turn off your utility mains.
- *Get basic first aid instruction.
- *Have family discussions about tsunamis and evacuation plans

When a "Tsunami WATCH" is issued for your area:

- *This means a dangerous tsunami has not yet been verified. If one exists, it may only be one hour away
- *Frequently monitor radio, Coast Guard emergency frequencies, NOAA Weather Radio, or other reliable source.
- *If you live in a low lying area carefully check your emergency supply kit. Especially remember any special medicine, infant needs, warm clothing, water and cash.
- *Locate family members and review evacuation plans.
- *If you have special evacuation needs (handicapped, elderly, small children), consider early evacuation.
- *Only consider taking your boat to deep water if time, weather, and its seaworthiness permit!
- *Secure important loose objects around your home/business, if time permits
- *Make ready to evacuate.

When a "Tsunami WARNING" is issued for your area:

- *This means a dangerous tsunami may have been generated and could be very close! Estimated times of wave arrival are given for selected coastal places.
- *If on the beach or near the shoreline: If you feel a very strong earthquake, evacuate to higher ground immediately! Do not wait for a formal warning.
- *If a tsunami is verified, the warning is extended to all Pacific coastlines: Closely monitor radio, Coast Guard emergency frequencies, NOAA Weather Radio, or other reliable source.
- *Follow instructions issued by local officials. *Leave immediately if ordered to do so.* Remember your emergency kit!
- *Never go down to the beach to watch for a tsunami!
- *Turn off your electric and gas service at the main, only if time permits. Do not use the telephone except in a genuine emergency.
- *Once in a safe area, do not return to the hazard zone until a competent local official has issued an "all clear".
- *All tsunamis, like hurricanes, are potentially dangerous even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.