How can I prepare for 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 often are in tsunami hazard zones:

- Ensure you 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 often to safe places on high ground or inland (away from the water) and outside the tsunami hazard zone. Your community may already 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 disaster supplies kit with items you and your family (including pets) may need in an emergency. Prepare kits for work and cars, too.



• Be a role model. Share your knowledge and plans with others.

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.

What should I do after a tsunami?

- Stay out of the tsunami hazard zone until officials say it is safe. The cancellation of a warning does not mean 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).

Where can I learn more?

Tsunami safety: www.weather.gov/tsunamisafety

Tsunami alerts: www.tsunami.gov

Emergency planning: www.ready.gov

Information provided by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (http://nws.weather.gov/nthmp/), a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, and 28 U.S. states and territories. If you live, work, or play on the coast, learn more about tsunamis and tsunami safety.

Tsunami Awareness & Safety

Knowledge saves lives!





1. How will I be warned about a tsunami?

There are two types of tsunami warnings: official and natural. Both are important. You may not get both. Respond immediately to whichever you receive first.

Official 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.

2. How do I respond to a tsunami warning?

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, move quickly to a safe place. Follow evacuation signs or go as high or far inland (away from the water) as possible.

If you live, work, or play at the coast, you should prepare for tsunamis. Tsunamis do not occur very often, but they pose a major threat to coastal communities. While they cannot be prevented, there are things you can do that could save your life and the lives of your loved ones.

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 loud roar (like a train or an airplane) from the ocean
- Unusual ocean behavior (the ocean could look like a fast-rising flood or a wall of water or it could drain away suddenly like a very low tide)

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



If you are in a tsunami hazard zone and receive a natural warning, a tsunami could arrive within minutes:

- In case of an earthquake, protect yourself. Drop, cover, and hold on. Be prepared for aftershocks. Each time the earth shakes, drop, cover, and hold on.
- Take action. Do not wait for an official warning or instructions from officials.
- As soon as you can move safely, move quickly to a safe place. Follow evacuation signs or go as high or far inland (away from the water) as possible.
- When you are in a safe place, get more information from radio, television, or your mobile devices (text or data).
- If you are outside of the tsunami hazard zone and receive a warning, stay where you are unless officials tell you otherwise.
- If there is earthquake damage, avoid fallen power lines, and stay away from weakened structures.

3. Where do I Evacuate?

- Locate the nearest Assembly Area.
- Plan on taking no more than 15-20 minutes to reach the Assembly Area.
- Practice your route on foot.
- If you are on the beach or near water and feel an earthquake of any size and length, move quickly to high ground.

