



# Tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of destructive ocean waves affecting shorelines. Tsunamis are usually generated by earthquakes. Tsunamis may also be caused by underwater landslides, or underwater volcanic eruptions. Tsunami waves are destructive and could rise as high as 100 feet or more. Tsunamis are a threat to the coast of Washington.

## The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA has warning centers located in Hawaii and Alaska that can issue a tsunami warning within 15 minutes after an earthquake. This provides an effective warning for distant-source tsunamis.

### A tsunami watch

A watch reports on conditions that may generate a tsunami.

- Turn on your radio.
- Listen to your radio, NOAA Weather Radio, or TV for updates on the watch.
- Know well in advance what your safest evacuation route will be.

### A tsunami warning

A warning reports that a tsunami has been generated.

- Keep your radio on.
- Evacuate coastal areas immediately.
- Evacuate to higher ground or to upper levels of reinforced buildings.
- Continue to monitor your local radio or NOAA Weather Radio for further information and instructions.
- Wait for the “All Clear” before you return to the beach or to your home.

## Coastal evacuation signs

- Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist coastal residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs have been placed along coastal roadways to indicate the direction inland or to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one direction available to reach safer areas. These routes may be marked with several signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.



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