



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 feet high. Even 10-foot tsunamis can be very destructive. Areas near the coast and less than 25 feet above sea level are at the most risk for a tsunami.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about what might happen.

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 of refuge that is at least 100 feet above sea level or two miles inland and that you can reach 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.

What to Do after a Tsunami

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

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tsunamis
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov)—www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/tsunamis.html
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—www.fema.gov/hazard/tsunami/index.shtm

Semper Paratus

Be “Always Ready.” Get an emergency supply kit good for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family, and be informed about what might happen.
