



Tsunami

Preparedness Empowers You It saves lives, property, and time.

Emergencies happen, often with little or no notice. By taking action beforehand you can be prepared for any emergency.

Be Ready Navy!
I am. Are you?

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, within a mile of the shoreline, and that are less than 25 feet above sea level are at the most risk for a tsunami.

How to Prepare

- 1 Be **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.
- 2 Determine whether you live or work in an area with the potential to be hit by a tsunami.
- 3 Determine where tsunami signs are located.
- 4 Make an **evacuation plan** as a family. You should identify a place to evacuate that is at least 100 feet above sea level or two miles inland. You should be able to reach it within 15 minutes.
- 4 Make a **communication plan** in case family members are separated.
- 4 Build an **emergency kit**.

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, and take your animals with you.
- 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.
- Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

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What to Do after a Tsunami

- Continue to listen to news reports for further information and instructions.
 - Stay clear of flood waters (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.
 - After a declared emergency, register your needs with the Navy through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at <https://navyfamily.navy.mil> or call 1-877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD).

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—
www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tsunamis
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov) & FEMA—
www.ready.gov/tsunamis