



TSUNAMI

Tsunamis are series of waves triggered by an earthquake, volcanic eruption, 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 be informed about what might happen, make a family emergency plan, and build an emergency supply kit.

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.
- 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.
- Build an emergency supply 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.
- 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 and 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.

What to Do after a Tsunami (continued)

- 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.
- To extend their usability, pack dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, refrigerated medicines, and other items that can quickly spoil in a cooler surrounded by ice.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/tsunamis/
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Ready.gov—www.ready.gov/tsunamis
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—www.tsunami.noaa.gov/

Semper Paratus

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