

TSUNAMIS



Be Aware

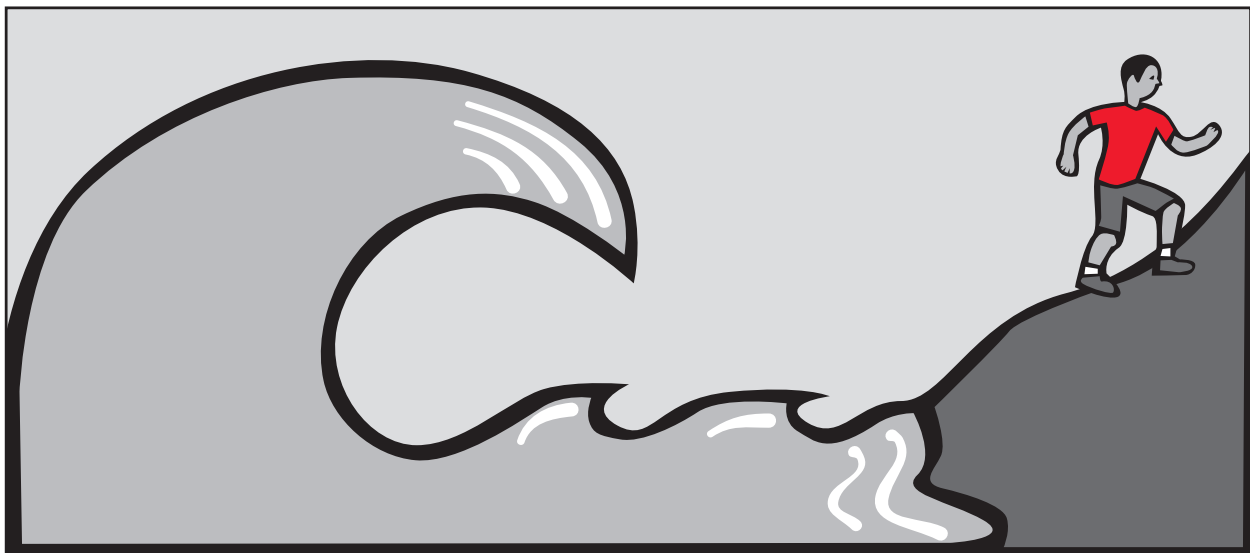
A tsunami is a series of ocean waves usually caused by earthquakes or underwater landslides. Tsunami waves travel up to 600 miles an hour in open water. As they enter shallow water near land, they get higher and can cause great loss of life and property damage. Experts believe a tsunami could hit the northwest coast with as much as 30 or as little as 5 minutes warning. In low-lying areas without a tsunami warning system, an earthquake may be the only sign a tsunami is approaching. Contact your local emergency management office to find out if there is a tsunami warning system in your area.

Prepare

- Become familiar with the tsunami warning signs. A strong earthquake may generate a tsunami. A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters is also a sign that a tsunami is approaching.
- Plan an evacuation route from your home, school, workplace, or any other place you'll be where tsunamis present a risk.
- If you are visiting an area at risk from tsunamis, become familiar with tsunami evacuation information and how you would be warned.
- Assemble an evacuation kit and keep it handy in your home or vehicle.
- Train all family members over the age of 10 in first aid (training for youth and adults is available from the American Red Cross).
- While deadly, tsunamis are also very infrequent. Be aware of the risk, but don't let it compromise your plans.

Respond

- If you feel an earthquake while you are on the coast, **DROP, COVER and HOLD ON** if inside, and avoid falling objects if outside.
- When the shaking has stopped, move quickly inland or to higher ground. Go on foot if possible. Take your evacuation kit, but don't delay leaving.
- If a tsunami watch is issued, listen to a NOAA weather radio, Coast Guard emergency frequency station, or other reliable source for updated emergency information and be ready to evacuate.
- Do not return to shore after the first wave. More high waves are likely to follow.
- Listen to your portable or car radio for an official "all clear" announcement.



Get to higher ground as far inland as possible. Watching a tsunami from the beach or cliffs could put you in grave danger. Return home only after local officials tell you it is safe.