

# TSUNAMI / EARTHQUAKE WHAT TO DO - Q & A



On the West Coast a significant earthquake may be followed by a Tsunami. The impact of this natural disaster will be significant - plan to be self sufficient for days or longer.

## HOW WILL I KNOW A TSUNAMI IS ON ITS WAY?

### A SIGNIFICANT LOCAL EARTHQUAKE

A significant local earthquake lasts longer than 20 seconds, makes standing difficult and within minutes may be followed by a tsunami on the West Coast

#### What to do:

- DROP, COVER & HOLD-ON during the earthquake
- Immediately move to higher ground following the earthquake if you are in a low lying area – the following locations are all 20 meters (about 66 feet) or more above sea level:
  - High school and associated fields
  - Tugwell fields (new ball fields)
  - Top of Hyphocus Island
  - Upper parts of Millstream
  - High point on Reef Point road
  - High point on Coast Guard road
  - Information centre at Highway 4 junction
  - High part of Sutton Road



**DO NOT** wait for an official warning – there may be no time for officials to issue warnings

**DO NOT** pack (have your grab-and-go bag already packed by the exit)

**DO NOT** go to the beach to watch - tsunamis move faster than you can run (well over 970 kph (600 mph) in the open ocean - as fast as a jet flies)

**DO** wait for an “all clear” from local officials before returning home or to low lying areas (a Tsunami may have more than one wave, the first wave may not be the largest and tsunami wave activity may last 24 hours or longer)

- If you are 20 meters above sea level, stay where you are (unsure? – see map at Ucluelet Community Centre)

### NOTIFICATION FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Some Tsunamis may start far away and take some time to arrive on the BC coast. Notification may include the following; door to door notice, loud hailers/vehicle-sirens, local radio, marine VHF, or signage at affected areas.

#### What to do during a:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Tsunami Watch</b>    | - wait for further information                                       |
| <b>Tsunami Advisory</b> | - stay away from the water front and remain above the high tide line |
| <b>Tsunami Warning</b>  | - move to higher ground (see table on reverse for more detail)       |

### SUDDEN CHANGES IN SEA LEVEL

A sudden rise or fall in sea level or a loud, roaring sound (like an airplane or a train) coming from the ocean may be the first signs of danger.

#### What to do:

- Immediately move to higher ground
- **DO NOT** wait for an official warning
- **DO NOT** go to the beach to watch - tsunamis move faster than you can run (well over 970 kph (600 mph) in the open ocean - as fast as a jet flies)

More Information



## HOW DO I HELP?

- Do** An emergency plan with your family, friends and/or neighbours
- Think** About hazards where you live, work, play and how to travel to closest safe areas
- Gather** Emergency supplies (NOW! before there is an emergency)
- Educate** Yourself on emergency preparedness, first aid and outdoor survival skills

Further information at:

- [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca) - Provincial Emergency Program / Emergency Management BC
- [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca) - Public Safety Canada
- [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca) - Government of Canada
- [www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca) - Health Canada
- [www.ucluelet.ca](http://www.ucluelet.ca) - District of Ucluelet
- [www.tsunami.noaa.gov](http://www.tsunami.noaa.gov) - National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

## HOW DO I GET ACCURATE INFORMATION?

During an emergency, accurate information may be obtained from the following:

- Local radio CHMZFM 90.1 Tofino and CIMMFM 99.5 Ucluelet (during a large-scale emergency, the local radio will be broadcasted from the Ucluelet Emergency Operations (EOC) Centre by EOC staff)
- Channel 16 on Marine VHF
- [www.ucluelet.ca](http://www.ucluelet.ca) District of Ucluelet
- <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov> West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre

## TSUNAMI WATCH, ADVISORY or WARNING?

Tsunami Notification	Meaning	How does local government respond?	What should I do? How will I know?
<b>WATCH</b> Wait for more information	Watches are issued when early seismic information indicates that an area <b>could</b> be impacted <b>if</b> a tsunami has been generated	Monitoring the situation and waiting for further information	<i>How will I know</i> - Personal investigation through news and internet  <i>What to do</i> – stay calm & wait for more information
<b>ADVISORY</b> Stay above high tide line	<b>“The second highest level of tsunami alert.</b>  Advisories are issued due to the threat of a tsunami that has the potential to produce strong currents dangerous to those in or near the water (EMBC website)”	Course of action may include one or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of public waterfront</li> <li>• Notification of the lowest lying properties</li> <li>• Community safety announcements &amp; signage</li> </ul>	<i>How will I know</i> - Personal investigation through news and internet  <i>How will I know</i> - Lowest lying properties, depending on the tsunami activity predicted, may receive notification from municipal officials – e.g. fire department, RCMP, public works and signage at affected areas  <i>What to do</i> – stay calm & stay above high tide line
<b>WARNING</b> Move to higher ground and stay there	<b>“This is the highest and most serious level of tsunami notification.</b>  Warnings are issued when there is imminent threat of a tsunami or confirmation of a tsunami wave (EMBC website)”	Full activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and implementation of the emergency evacuation plan	<b><i>How will I know</i> – For a large local earthquake, the earthquake will be your notice</b>  <i>How will I know</i> - For off shore generated tsunami warnings, notification may include the following, door to door notification, loud hailers/vehicle-siren, local radio and marine VHF  <i>What to do</i> – stay calm & move to higher ground and remain there

## MORE INFORMATION & HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

Want more information or to volunteer?

Contact Ucluelet’s Manager of Emergency Services [emergency@ucluelet.ca](mailto:emergency@ucluelet.ca) or 726-4784.