

Tsunami summary

- New Zealand's entire coast is at risk of tsunami
- The most danger exists from a tsunami generated very close to New Zealand. There will not be time to issue an official warning
- If you live in a tsunami risk zone, find out what warning systems are in place in your community and what you need to do
- Know how to reach the nearest safe ground, using evacuation routes where present

If you are on the coast and you feel a strong earthquake, you may have only minutes to act until a tsunami arrives.

- Do not wait for an official warning
- Instead, let the earthquake be your warning. First, protect yourself from falling objects then quickly get to high ground or, if the surrounding area is flat, go as far inland as possible
- Take a battery powered radio to listen for official information
- Do not go sightseeing to the beach or river
- Wait for official all clear before returning

Write the details of your nearest safe location here. Also, any important telephone numbers.

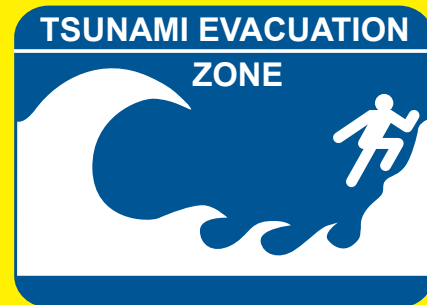
For more information

To find out about tsunami risks and preparedness in your area, contact your local council.

Visit www.civildefence.govt.nz to locate your local council's civil defence emergency management office.

For more information on being prepared, visit www.getthru.govt.nz

For updates on earthquake and tsunami visit www.geonet.org.nz



If you think a tsunami is coming
**get to high ground
or go inland**



What are our tsunami risks?

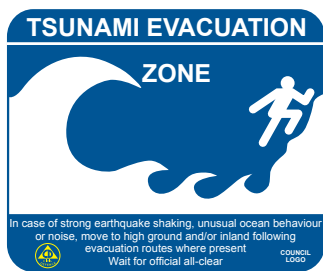
New Zealand's entire coast is at risk of tsunami.

The biggest tsunami in New Zealand are likely to be caused by major earthquakes or underwater landslides close to our shore and can arrive within just a few minutes. Once they travel over land, tsunami pick up debris, boats and large rocks. They can knock down buildings, kill or injure people. They have enormous destructive force.

Tsunami may also be generated by very large earthquakes far away. Some tsunami can travel thousands of kilometres and still be big enough to cause loss of life and damage when they arrive here.

Official tsunami signage

A National Standard was developed for tsunami signage in April 2008. Your city or district council might put up tsunami signage to identify zones at high risk as well as signs for designated evacuation routes and safe areas. If used, the signage will follow the National Standard. Shown below are examples.



1. Evacuation zones indicating areas of possible risk from tsunami



2. Evacuation routes indicating the best route out of an evacuation zone



3. Safe locations indicating the place to wait for official all clear.

Remember that New Zealand's entire coast is at risk of tsunami. The absence of tsunami signage does not mean an absence of tsunami risk.

Tsunami key facts

- Tsunami are large ocean waves generated by major earthquakes beneath the ocean floor or by major underwater landslides
- A tsunami can occur during any time of the year
- A tsunami is a series of waves. The first wave may not be the largest
- Tsunami waves can travel up streams and rivers with damaging waves extending further inland than the immediate coast
- The tsunami danger period can continue for many hours

How will I know?

NATURAL WARNING

IF you are at the coast and you experience any of the following:

- you feel a strong earthquake (it's hard to stand up)
- you feel a weak earthquake *that lasts for a minute or more*
- you see strange sea behaviour, such as the sea level suddenly rising or falling
- you hear the sea making loud and unusual noises or roaring like a jet engine

THEN get to high ground or go inland.

Do not wait for an official warning. Instead, let the natural signs be your warning. First, protect yourself from falling objects then immediately get to high ground or go inland. Wait for official all clear.

OFFICIAL WARNING

An official warning from civil defence emergency management may be issued through radio or television broadcasts. Warning may also be through siren, telephone, txt, loud hailer, or other local arrangements. You may receive warning from one, or several sources. Respond to the first warning, do not wait for more messages before you act. Listen to your radio and follow any official instructions. Evacuate from the areas or zone(s) stated in the warning.

INFORMAL WARNING

Warnings from friends, other members of the public, international media, etc may be correct. If you feel the threat is imminent, quickly get to high ground or, if the surrounding area is flat, go as far inland as possible. Verify the warning only if you can do so quickly via radio, television, internet, or by contacting your nearest civil defence emergency management office.