

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 and help may take days or longer to come.

HOW WILL I KNOW A TSUNAMI IS ON ITS WAY?

A SIGNIFICANT LOCAL EARTHQUAKE

A significant local earthquake lasts longer than 20 seconds, is difficult to stand 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

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 they 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 and marine VHF.

What to do during a:

Tsunami **Watch** – wait for further information

Tsunami **Advisory** – stay away from the water front and remain above the high tide line

Tsunami **Warning** – move to higher ground (see table on reverse for more detail)

SUDDEN CHANGES IN SEA LEVEL

If you are not able to hear evacuation announcements and the tsunami was not triggered by a local earthquake - 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 and neighbours
- Think.** About hazards where you live, work and play and how to travel to closest safe area
- 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 - Provincial Emergency Program / Emergency Management BC
- www.publicsafety.gc.ca - Public Safety Canada
- www.getprepared.gc.ca - Government of Canada
- www.hc-sc.gc.ca - Health Canada
- www.ucluelet.ca District of Ucluelet
- 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
- Channel 16 on Marine VHF
- www.ucluelet.ca District of Ucluelet
- www.tsunami.noaa.gov National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- www.pep.bc.ca - Provincial Emergency Program / Emergency Management BC

TSUNAMI WATCH, ADVISORY & WARNING?

Tsunami Notification	Meaning	How does local government respond?	How will I know?
WATCH Wait for more information	Watches are issued when early seismic information indicates that an area could be impacted if a tsunami has been generated	The District monitors the situation and waits for further information	Personal investigation through news and internet
ADVISORY Stay above high tide line	"The second highest level of tsunami alert. 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"> • Closure of public waterfront including marinas, harbours, beaches & the Wild Pacific Trail. • Notification of the lowest lying properties • Community safety announcements 	Personal investigation through news and internet. Lowest lying properties, depending on the tsunami activity predicted, may receive notification from municipal officials – e.g. fire department, RCMP, public works
WARNING Move to higher ground and stay there	"This is the highest and most serious level of tsunami notification. 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	Large local earthquake – the earthquake will be your notice. For off shore generated tsunami warnings, notification may include the following, door to door notification, loud hailer/siren, local radio and marine VHF

HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

Attend local training programs and call the Manager of Emergency Services at 726-4784 to volunteer for example, Emergency Social Services (ESS), Neighbourhood Preparedness Program or the Ucluelet Volunteer Fire Brigade (UVFB).

Want more information contact Ucluelet's Manager of Emergency Services - emergency@ucluelet.ca or 726-4784