

Be aware of the signs of a tsunami

Tsunamis are a series of large ocean waves generated by major earthquakes beneath the ocean floor or major landslides into the ocean. When the waves enter shallow water, they may rise to several feet or, in rare cases, tens of feet, striking the coast with devastating force. People on the beach or in low coastal areas need to be aware that a tsunami could arrive within minutes after a severe earthquake. The tsunami danger period can continue for many hours after a major earthquake. A tsunami can occur during any season of the year and at any time, day or night.

The Signs

A strong earthquake lasting 20 seconds or more near the coast.

A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters.

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- ❑ Know the height of your street above sea level and the distance of your street from the coast or other high-risk waters. Evacuation orders may be based on these numbers.
 - ❑ Plan evacuation routes from your home, school, workplace and other places.
 - ❑ Practice your evacuation routes.
 - ❑ If you hear an official tsunami watch, locate household members and review evacuation plans. Be ready to move quickly if a tsunami warning is issued.
 - ❑ If you hear an official tsunami warning or detect signs of a tsunami, evacuate at once.
 - ❑ If you have to evacuate, take your emergency preparedness kit. Having supplies will make you more comfortable during the evacuation.
 - ❑ Take your pets with you. If it is not safe for you, it's not safe for them.
 - ❑ Get to higher ground as far inland as possible. Watching a tsunami could put you in grave danger. If you can see the wave, you are too close to escape it.
 - ❑ Stay out of any building that has water around it. Tsunami water can cause floors to crack or walls to collapse.