

Tsunami Awareness: Simple Things to Keep in Mind



The following guidelines are adapted from the *Tsunami Glossary* (UNESCO, 1991):

- ☑ All earthquakes do not cause tsunami, but many do. When you hear that an earthquake has occurred, stand by for a possible tsunami emergency.
- ☑ An earthquake in your area is a natural tsunami warning. Do not stay in low-lying coastal areas after a local earthquake.
- ☑ A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves. Stay out of danger areas until local authorities issue an “all clear.”
- ☑ A noticeable rise or fall (withdrawal) of coastal water sometimes heralds an approaching tsunami. This is nature’s warning and should be heeded.
- ☑ A small tsunami at one beach can be a giant a few miles away. Don’t let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
- ☑ All tsunami—like hurricanes—are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.
- ☑ Never go down to the beach to watch for a tsunami. When you see the wave you are too close to escape it. Tsunami travel at considerable speeds below the surface of the ocean and may not be visible to the eye until they get close to shore.
- ☑ Stay tuned to the radio or television during a tsunami emergency-bulletin issued by local authorities.
- ☑ If you live in a low-lying area, especially close to a beach, work out an escape route and make sure all family members know the route and what to do.