

## What can I do ahead of time to protect myself and my family from a tsunami?

(continued)

**3. Take a first aid class.** Learn survival skills, talk with your family, friends, and neighbors. Knowledge is your greatest defense against any potential disaster.

**4. Join a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).** Contact your local Office of Emergency Services to see if there is a CERT in your area or find out how to start one in your own community.

### Remember:

**Never** go to the coast to watch for a tsunami if you hear that a warning has been issued. Tsunamis move faster than a person can run. Also, incoming traffic hampers safe and timely evacuation of coastal areas.

Tsunamis are **not surfable!** They are not V-shaped or curling waves. Large tsunamis most frequently come onshore as a rapidly rising turbulent surge of water choked with debris.

All Tsunamis – like hurricanes – are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.

Our coastlines are vulnerable but damaging tsunamis are rare along the California coast. Understand the hazard and learn how to protect yourself, but don't let the threat of tsunamis ruin your enjoyment of the beach.

## Who gives Official Tsunami Warnings?

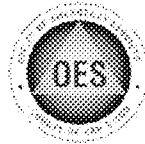
The West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center is responsible for issuing warnings and information about potential tsunamis along the West Coast of the United States. Bulletins are typically issued within 10 – 15 minutes of a large undersea earthquake in the Pacific basin. The information is transmitted to local emergency response personnel who decide whether or not to order an evacuation. For more information, contact:

**West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center**  
910 S. Felton, Palmer, AK 99645  
Phone: 907-745-4212 FAX: 907-745-6071  
<http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/>

### For Further Information about Tsunamis:

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
FEMA 500 C Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20472  
Phone: (202) 566-1600  
<http://www.fema.gov/hazards/tsunamis/>

### For local Emergency Information:



Office of Emergency Services  
5555 Overland Ave, Suite 1911  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 565-3490  
Email: [oes@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:oes@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Website: [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes)

# Tsunami!

How to survive this Hazard on California's Coast



**IF YOU FEEL A STRONG EARTHQUAKE WHEN YOU ARE ON THE COAST:**



1. **Duck, cover and hold on** and watch for falling objects until the earthquake is over.



2. **Move to higher ground** or inland away from the coast immediately. A tsunami may be coming. Go on foot if at all possible.

**Do Not Wait For Official Warning**



3. **Stay away from the coast**; do not return to shore after the first wave. Waves may continue to arrive for hours



4. **Listen to your radio** for an official "all clear" before returning to the beach.

