Tsunami! Safety Tips for the Gulf of Alaska

Evacuation Maps
Homer, Alaska

For more information, please contact:

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What should I do if an earthquake occurs while at the coast?

- Drop, cover, and hold. Get under a sturdy object and hold on. Watch for falling objects.
- As soon as the shaking is over, move to high ground or inland. Do not wait for an official warning.
- Stay away from the coast. Waves may continue to arrive for hours.
- Listen to your local radio station for emergency alerts.
- Be alert for aftershocks.

What can I do to protect myself from a tsunami?

- Develop a family disaster plan. Everyone needs to know what to do on their own to protect themselves from an earthquake.
- Be familiar with local Emergency Management earthquake and tsunami plans. Know where to go to survive a tsunami.
- Be prepared to survive on your own for a minimum of seven days.
- Prepare a disaster supply kit for your home, automobile and work. A list of recommended supplies for your kit appears on the inside of this brochure.
- Take a first aid course and learn survival skills. Knowledge is your greatest defense against potential disaster.

Where do I evacuate?

- For falling objects.
- Sturdy object and hold on. Watch for falling objects.
- Go on foot if possible, particularly if an official “All Clear” notice before you return.
- Do not return to shore after the first wave. Wait for Emergency Management officials to give the all clear.
- Stay tuned to your radio, marine radio or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Call 9-1-1 only for life threatening emergencies.
- Be alert for aftershocks.
- Do not return to shore after the first wave. Wait for Emergency Management officials to give the all clear.
- Stay tuned to your radio, marine radio or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Call 9-1-1 only for life threatening emergencies.
- Be alert for aftershocks.
Evacuation signs and what they mean:

Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist coastal residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs have been placed along roadways to indicate the direction inland or to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one direction available to reach safer areas. These routes may be marked with several signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

Community Plans:

Every attempt has been made by local Emergency Management offices to locate evacuation routes and public congregation areas that are safe, within a reasonable distance for foot or vehicle traffic, and accessible within a short period of time. These are difficult criteria to meet in some geographic areas, primarily as a result of private property issues. For that reason, residents who may be impacted by tsunami activity, but do not have an “official” route or congregation area within reasonable distance, are urged to work together to develop an evacuation plan within their neighborhood or community. A plan should address property access issues, evacuation routes, and what might be expected in terms of numbers of people needing to access a locally organized congregation area.

Tsunamis and Boats:

If Emergency Officials have directed an evacuation of all low-lying coastal areas, the chances are good that a moderate wave will arrive, a boat located where large currents may form are better off in deeper water, i.e., 100 fathoms or greater. Every person with responsibility for a boat has to decide whether to move it based on: estimates of weather; seaworthiness of the boat; the time and inconvenience of moving the boat; and the relative safety the berth provides the boat.

A boat threatened by tsunami waves and/or strong currents should be taken to deeper water away from confined channels unless the factors mentioned above override the risk to the boat. Tsunamis create exceptional currents. Water level changes have the potential to move channel markers, expose reefs in otherwise navigable water, and force boats into hazardous areas. When boat owners receive a tsunami warning they must determine how much time is available before the wave arrives and evaluate whether the boat can reach deeper water in the time available before attempting to move the boat. Distant tsunami arrival times can be obtained from the Tsunami Warning system. No attempt should be made to move a boat for locally generated tsunamis.

Disaster Supply Kit

Assemble in a 7-day minimum supply:

- First-aid supplies and minimum personal prescription
- Non-perishable food and utensils
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Water carrying bags or containers
- Extra blankets, ponchos and clothing
- Plastic bags for garbage and waste
- Rubber, latex and heavy duty gloves
- Pocket knife, flat 12” pry bar, and duct tape
- Small tent
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)
- Battery-operated AM radio (with extra batteries)
- Whistles
- Dental and personal hygiene items
- Dust masks
- Matches