

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S TSUNAMI RISK

A tsunami is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. Tsunamis can cause great loss of life and property damage where they come ashore.

- 🔊 The first wave is almost never the largest
- 🔊 Successive waves may be spaced ten or more minutes apart and continue arriving for many hours

You may find out that a tsunami is coming in two ways:

### Natural Warning

For a large, nearby earthquake or submarine landslide, there will be no time to issue an official warning. **Strong ground shaking, a sudden change in sea level, ocean withdrawal, or a loud roar from the ocean are all Nature's warning that a tsunami may be approaching.** If you observe any of these natural warning signs, immediately move to higher ground or inland. Stay away from low areas until told by an official source that the danger has passed.

### Official Warning

You may be notified that a Tsunami Warning has been issued by: TV and radio stations (through the Emergency Alert System), door-to-door contact by law enforcement, on NOAA weather radios, or in some cases by outdoor siren. Move away from the beach and seek more information without using a phone. Tune into a local radio or television station for more information. Follow the directions of local authorities which may include evacuating low lying coastal areas.

**Both Natural and Official warnings are equally important. Respond to whatever you hear or observe first!**

## WHAT AREAS ARE AT RISK?

Beach areas along the coast and low lying areas close to the bay are at greatest risk. In some areas, tsunami hazard zone signs have been posted. Check the map on the reverse side for more information. **If you are in a white area, DO NOT EVACUATE! YOU ARE SAFE WHERE YOU ARE.**

## WHAT IF I AM OUTSIDE THE MAP AREA?

Go to an area 100 feet above sea level or 2 miles inland, away from the coast. If you cannot get this high or far, go as high as possible. Every foot inland or upwards can make a difference.

## HOW CAN I SAVE MYSELF FROM A LOCAL-SOURCE TSUNAMI?

If you are on the beach and feel an earth-quake, no matter how small, immediately move inland or to high ground.

**COUNT** how long the earthquake lasts. If you count 20 seconds or more of very strong ground shaking, **and you are located in a red or orange zone on the map, evacuate to a WHITE OR YELLOW AREA as soon as it is safe to do so.** In all other areas, shelter in place.

**GO ON FOOT.** Roads and bridges may be damaged by the strong ground shaking. If your only evacuation route is blocked by downed power lines, carefully cross without touching the lines.

If evacuation is impossible, go to the upper floor of a sturdy building or climb a tree — this should only be used as a last resort.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services,  
826 4th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone (707) 268-2500

Humboldt Earthquake Education Center  
Geology Dept., Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521;  
Phone (707) 826-6019  
Earthquake Hot Line (707) 826-6020  
[http://www.humboldt.edu/~geodept/earthquakes/eqk\\_info.html](http://www.humboldt.edu/~geodept/earthquakes/eqk_info.html)

Humboldt County American Red Cross  
406 11th St., Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone (707) 443-4521

NOAA, National Weather Service  
300 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95501;  
Phone (707) 443-6484  
<http://www.weather.gov/eureka>

# TSUNAMI!

## HOW TO SURVIVE THIS HAZARD IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY



- 🔊 **Protect yourself during strong ground shaking**  
Drop, cover and hold
- 🔊 **Move to higher ground or inland immediately, as soon as it is safe to do so**  
A tsunami may be coming

## DO NOT WAIT FOR AN OFFICIAL WARNING

- 🔊 **Stay away from the coast**  
Waves may continue to arrive for hours
- 🔊 **Do not leave high ground before an official "all clear"**  
Listen to your radio for instructions

# Tsunami Hazard

## Legend

- High velocity wave hazard
- Road
- Stream
- Higher dune area

- ## Relative Hazard
- No Hazard
  - Lowest Hazard
  - Moderate Hazard
  - Highest Hazard



07.28.2004, Jason R. Patton, Lori Dengler

