A TSUNAMI is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. If a large earthquake displaces the sea floor near the Alaskan coast, the first waves may reach the shore minutes after the ground stops shaking. Authorities would not have time to issue a warning.

If you notice a sudden drop or rise in sea level, it may be a warning of impending danger. Move to high ground or move inland immediately. Tsunami waves can kill and injure people and cause great property damage where they come ashore.

South-central and southeastern Alaska have a history of locally generated tsunamis due to underwater landslides. These landslides could occur within seconds of a major earthquake.

Tsunamis can occur at any time of the day or night, under any weather conditions, and in all seasons. The following areas are especially vulnerable to tsunamis:

- Beaches that are open to the ocean;
- Beaches by bay entrances or tidal flats; and
- The shores of coastal rivers.

DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

Assemble a disaster kit with supplies for at least 7 days.

Visit www.ready.alaska.gov for a complete disaster kit list.

REMEMBER:

- Never go to the coast to watch a tsunami. Tsunamis move faster than a person can run. If you are camping on or near the beach, you may have to abandon your campsite to go inland or to higher ground to save your life.
- If you see an unexpected rise or fall in the coastal water, a tsunami may be approaching. Do not wait—move inland or uphill as quickly as possible.
- Call 9-1-1 only for life-threatening emergencies.
- If you experience ground shaking for 20 seconds or more, the earthquake is likely a 7.0 magnitude or greater, which can generate a tsunami.
How do I know when to evacuate?

When you feel the ground shake:

• Drop, cover, and hold until shaking stops.
• Evacuate inland or to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for notification.
• Take your pets.
• Take your 7-day disaster supply kit.
• Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio
  • 156.8000 Homer Harbor Standby (16)
  • 156.5000 Homer Harbor Talk (10)
  • 162.4000 Marine Weather W2X
  or your local radio station KBBI 890 AM for information on shelter locations and emergency broadcasts.
• Beware of aftershocks.
• Do not return to lower ground until local emergency officials give the “all clear” notice.

During tsunami events originating from a more distant source, local Emergency Management officials will advise citizens to evacuate by making an announcement over the Emergency Alert System (tsunami siren), social media, and the local radio station. Please listen to your local radio stations for alerts.

How do I get inland or to high ground?

Go on foot if possible, particularly if an earthquake has damaged roads and resulted in significant debris.

Go to an area at least 50 feet above sea level. If possible, follow evacuation signs. If you do not have time to travel to high ground but are in a multistory building, go to the uppermost level. If you are on the coast and unable to get to high ground, go as far inland as you can.

Where do I go in an evacuation?

Learn the evacuation routes for your area. The tsunami evacuation map illustrates the primary evacuation routes, designated shelters, and congregation areas for your community.

Tsunami evacuation routes are to help residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs and arrows are placed along roadways to indicate the direction to go inland or to higher ground. Follow the arrows. In some places, more than one option may be available for reaching safer areas. These areas may be marked with several signs showing additional routes for evacuation.