

Tsunamis



CERT Basic Training Hazards

A Tsunami Is...

- An ocean wave produced by underwater earthquakes or landslides



Tsunami Risks

- Flooding
- Contamination of drinking water
- Fires from ruptured tanks or gas lines
- Loss of vital community infrastructure
- Complete devastation of coastal areas
- Death

Tsunami Facts

- 24 tsunamis have caused damage in U.S. and territories during past 224 years
- Wave height ranges: inches to 100+ feet
- Tsunamis can travel upstream in coastal estuaries and rivers
 - Damaging waves as high as 60 feet extending inland from immediate coast
- First wave of tsunami is usually not largest

Tsunami Preparedness

- Know risk and “coastal clues”
- Plan and practice evacuation routes
- Discuss tsunamis with your family
- Talk to your insurance agent
- Use NOAA Weather Radio

Protecting Property

- Avoid living within several hundred feet of coastline
- Elevate coastal homes
- Consult with professional

Tsunami Preparedness

- If strong, coastal earthquake occurs:
 - Drop, cover, and hold
 - When shaking stops, evacuate quickly to higher ground away from coast, up to two miles inland
 - Gather your family
 - Leave everything else behind
 - Avoid downed power lines, buildings, and bridges

If a Warning is Issued

- If in tsunami risk area, evacuate immediately
- Follow instructions issued by local authorities
- Get to higher ground as far inland as possible
- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or Coast Guard emergency frequency station
- Return home only after local officials tell you that it is safe
- If already out on ocean, be sure to get as far from coast as possible