

What is a tsunami?

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 Alaska coast, the first waves may reach the shore minutes after the ground stops shaking. There would be no time for authorities to issue a warning.

Following an earthquake far out in the Pacific Ocean it may take hours for tsunami waves to reach the Alaska coast. The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center alerts local officials who may order an evacuation, but isolated areas may not receive official announcements. If you notice a sudden drop or rise in sea level, it may be a warning of impending danger. Move to high ground or inland immediately.

The waves can kill and injure people and cause great property damage where they come ashore. The first wave is often not the largest; successive waves may be spaced several minutes apart and continue to arrive for several hours.

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

- Drop, cover and hold on until the shaking stops.
- Evacuate inland or to higher ground immediately. Do not wait for notification. Take your pets.
- Take your 7-day disaster supply kit.
- Listen to your local radio station or NOAA Weather Radio for information on shelter location and emergency broadcast.
- Beware of aftershocks.
- Do not return to the beach until local emergency officials give the “All Clear” notice.

Disaster Supply Kit

- Assemble in a 7-day minimum supply:
- First-aid supplies
- Personal prescriptions
- Pet supplies
- Non-perishable food and utensils
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Extra blankets, rain gear and clothing
- Plastic bags for garbage and waste
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated AM radio

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

Where do I evacuate?



A strong offshore earthquake may generate a tsunami. If you feel the ground shake or you hear the sirens sound, evacuate inland or to high ground immediately and return only after officials say it is safe to do so. During distant source tsunami events, local emergency officials will advise citizens to evacuate by making an announcement over the Emergency Alert System or NOAA Weather Radio. Listen to your local radio stations for alerts.

How do I know when to evacuate?

What can I do to protect myself from a tsunami?

- Develop a family disaster plan.
- 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.
- Take a first aid course and learn survival skills.

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How do I get inland or to high ground?

REMEMBER:

Go on foot if possible, particularly if an earthquake has caused damage to roads, power lines, and resulted in significant debris.

■ 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.

■ Do not return to shore after the first wave. Wait for Emergency Management officials to give the “All Clear” before you return.

■ If you see an unexpected rise or fall in the coastal water, a tsunami may be approaching. Do not wait—instead move inland or uphill as quickly as possible.

■ State tuned to your radio, marine radio or NOAA Weather Radio during a disaster. Bulletins will be issued regularly through Emergency Management officials and National Weather Service.

■ Call 9-1-1 only for life threatening emergencies.

Tsunami!

Evacuation Map and Safety Tips for Chenequa, Alaska



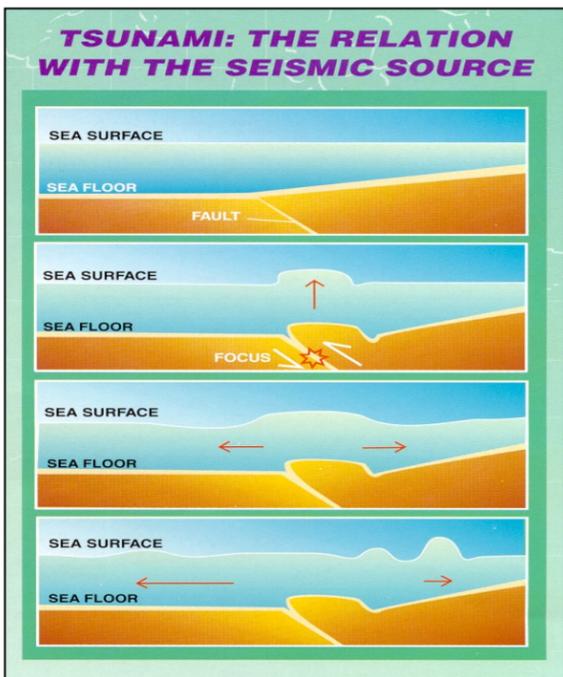
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CITY OF CHENEGA EVACUATION ROUTES



When you feel the ground shake:

- **Drop, cover and hold.**
- **Evacuate inland or to higher ground immediately.**
Do not wait for notification.
- **Take your 7-day disaster supply kit.**
- **Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or your local radio station for information on shelter location and emergency broadcast.**
NOAA Weather Radio local frequency: **162.400**
- **Beware of aftershocks.**
- **Do not return to the beach until local emergency officials give the “All Clear” notice.**



Evacuation signs and what they mean: Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist 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 need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

Community Plans:

Every attempt has been made by 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 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 shelter area within reasonable distance, are urged to work together to create an evacuation plan within their neighborhood or community. A plan should address property access issues, evacuation routes, and what might be expected in 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, chances are that a moderate wave will arrive. A boat located where large currents may form is better off in deeper water, i.e., 100 fathoms or greater. Every person responsible for a boat must 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 moved to deeper water away from confined channels unless the factors mentioned above over-ride 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. After receiving a tsunami warning, boat owners must determine how much time is available before the wave arrives. Before attempting to move the boat, the owner should evaluate whether the boat can reach deeper water in the time available.

Distant tsunami arrival times can be obtained through NOAA Weather Radio or from the Alaska/West Coast Tsunami Warning Center. No attempt should be made to move a boat for locally generated tsunamis.