

IF YOU FEEL A STRONG EARTHQUAKE WHILE NEAR THE COAST:

1. PROTECT YOURSELF DURING THE EARTHQUAKE



- If indoors, DROP under a sturdy table or object, COVER your head and neck and HOLD ON.
- If outdoors, move to a clear area if you can safely do so - away from trees, beach cliffs, signs and other hazards - and drop to the ground, but do cover your head and neck and hold on.

2. MOVE TO HIGH GROUND



- As soon as it is safe to move, go to higher ground. DO NOT WAIT for an official tsunami warning.
- Avoid downed power lines and weakened bridges.
- If you are outside of a tsunami hazard zone, stay where you are.



3. STAY THERE



Tsunami signs, which identify tsunami hazard zones and evacuation routes, have been posted on major streets along the coast.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TSUNAMIS

- A tsunami is a series of waves or surges most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor.
- An unusual lowering of ocean water, exposing the sea floor, is a warning of a tsunami or other large wave. This “draw back” means the water will surge back strongly.
- Beaches, lagoons, bays, estuaries, tidal flats and river mouths are the most dangerous places to be. It is rare for a tsunami to penetrate more than a mile inland.
- Tsunami waves are unlike normal coastal waves. Tsunamis are more like a flooding river or a sloping mountain of water and filled with debris.
- Tsunamis cannot be surfed. They have no face for a surfboard to dig into and are usually filled with debris.
- Large tsunamis may reach heights of 20 to 50 ft. along the coast and even higher in a few locales. The first tsunami surge is not the highest and the largest surge may occur hours after the first wave. It is not possible to predict how many surges or how much time will elapse between waves be for a particular tsunami.
- The entire California coast is vulnerable to tsunamis.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
www.noaa.gov

Preparing for earthquakes and tsunamis
www.earthquakecountry.org

Orange County
www.readyoc.org

City of Newport Beach
www.newportbeachca.gov or call (949) 644-3112



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
TSUNAMI EMERGENCY
INFORMATION



www.newportbeachca.gov



TWO WAYS TO FIND OUT IF A TSUNAMI MAY BE COMING

1. NATURAL WARNING

Strong ground shaking, a loud ocean roar, or the water receding unusually far and exposing the sea floor are all nature's warnings that a tsunami may be coming. If you observe any of these warning signs, immediately go to higher ground or inland. A tsunami may arrive within minutes and may last for eight hours or longer. Stay away from coastal areas until officials announce that it is safe to return.

2. OFFICIAL WARNING

You may hear that a Tsunami Warning has been issued. Tsunami Warnings might come via radio, television, telephone, text message, door-to-door contact by emergency responders, NOAA weather radios, or by outdoor sirens. The City of Newport Beach has an outdoor siren system that covers its tsunami inundation zone. When sirens are activated, they will sound for an extended period of time. Immediately move away from the beach and all low lying areas in the tsunami inundation zone. Once you are safely on higher ground, seek more information on local radio or television stations. Follow the directions of emergency personnel who will ask you to evacuate beaches and low-lying areas. Use your phone only for life-threatening emergencies.

PREPARE NOW

How you prepare will affect how you recover. Being prepared for earthquakes and tsunamis prepares you for all kinds of disasters.

- Know if you live, work, or play in the Newport Beach tsunami inundation zone. (See map below.)
- Learn the Newport Beach tsunami evacuation routes as depicted in black on the map.
- If you live or work in a tsunami hazard zone, get a NOAA weather radio with the public alert feature for your home and office.
- Assemble a small evacuation kit with essential documents, medications, a flashlight, a portable NOAA weather radio and batteries, water, snacks and warm clothes. Include a silver "space blanket" in your kit – it can be used to signal your location to air search teams. Keep your evacuation kit by the door so you can "grab & go".
- Walk your route – consider what you would do at night or in stormy weather.
- Make a reunification plan with your loved ones. Decide when and where you will meet if you are separated, and what out-of-state relative or friend you will call if it is not possible to meet at your pre-designated reunification spot.
- Discuss plans with family, coworkers and neighbors.
- Make plans for how to address any functional needs or disabilities you might have. If you need help evacuating, prearrange assistance from neighbors including transport of mobility devices and durable medical equipment. If you are mobility impaired, account for the extra time that you may need.
- Decide on the best strategy for protecting your pets.
- Prepare to be on your own for several days or longer.
- Consider joining the Newport Beach Community Emergency Response Team www.NBCERT.org

WHEN SHOULD I EVACUATE?

- Evacuation should not be automatic. Before evacuating you should determine if you are in the tsunami inundation zone and consider possible hazards that may exist along your evacuation route.
- Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone. The map displays the City of Newport Beach tsunami inundation zone as all homes in the red. If you live in the red inundation zone, be ready to evacuate. If you live outside of the inundation zone as depicted in green, tune your FM radio to 107.9, turn on your television, and check the www.noaa.com web site for further information.
- COUNT how long the earthquake lasts. If you feel more than 20 seconds of very strong ground shaking and are in the tsunami inundation zone, evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are on the beach or in the harbor and feel an earthquake—no matter how small—immediately move inland or to high ground.
- GO ON FOOT. Roads and bridges in Newport Beach may be damaged.
- If evacuation is impossible, go to the third or higher floor of a sturdy building. This should only be used as a last resort.
- If you hear that a tsunami warning has been issued, but did not feel an earthquake, get more information. Listen to the radio, television or other sources and follow instructions of emergency personnel.
- If you are outside of a tsunami hazard zone, take no action. You are safer staying where you are.

