

TSUNAMI SURVIVAL

- If you are at the beach and feel an earthquake – GO TO HIGH GROUND (>30m above sea level)
- If the water level drops below low tide level – GO TO HIGH GROUND
- If you hear a siren near the beach – GO TO HIGH GROUND (if not a shark alarm)
- If in or near multi-storied concrete building – GO UP IN BUILDING ABOVE THIRD FLOOR



Credit: Charles Mader

Prepared by Michael Paine. More resources at:
users.tpg.com.au/horsts/tsunami_hazard.html

Be prepared - not alarmed.

This is a low-probability, high-consequence event that calls for a little preparation in case a warning is issued. These are similar to the things that people do to prepare for cyclone or bushfire warnings.

1. Identify if you live, work or play in a vulnerable location - find out the approximate height above mean sea level. As a rough guide, coastal and estuary land less than 10 metres above mean sea level is "at risk". Google Maps has a sea level rise add-on that can give a very rough guide.
2. Identify a safe location to go to in the event of a tsunami warning - a nearby hill or headland or at least the third storey of a reinforced concrete building.
3. Plan an evacuation route *by foot* to reach that safe location (avoid the need for driving a car because the roads will likely gridlock)
4. Subscribe to the email or RSS warning service of the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/?region=1)
5. Subscribe to a mobile phone SMS alert service like Australian Early Warning Network (www.ewn.com.au).
6. If you receive a tsunami warning that is relevant to your location, *or feel an earthquake**, quickly get your evacuation plan into action. If a mega-tsunami does inundate the area do not return to low-lying land *until given the all-clear by emergency services* as other waves are likely to follow after the first wave and each wave can last for 20 to 30 minutes. There can still be a danger many hours after the first wave.
7. Approach your local council and politicians and ask them to support the local SES in the development of a tsunami warning action plan.
8. Most importantly, relax and enjoy living near the ocean, knowing that you have made basic preparations for a worst case scenario

* A landslide on the steep underwater slope about 50km off the Australian coastline could generate a local tsunami. This might be triggered by a small earthquake or the landslide might feel like an earthquake at the coast. It would take less than 30 minutes for the tsunami to reach the coast so don't wait to be told to evacuate.

TSUNAMI

SURVIVAL GUIDE



EAST COAST OF AUSTRALIA

The East Coast of Australia is recognised as being vulnerable to mega-tsunami, like the one that devastated coastlines around the Indian Ocean on 26th December 2004. Australian civil authorities are now preparing tsunami action plans to deal with this low-probability but high consequence event.

This brochure has been prepared for those people who live in a coastal area not currently covered by an action plan and who wish to make their own preparations.

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