

Remember that there are two ways you will learn that a tsunami is coming: Official Warnings like the one tested on March 28, and Natural Warnings.

If there is a REAL emergency the EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM will notify you of the emergency.

NATURAL WARNING

- Ground shaking that lasts a long time
- A loud ocean roar
- The water receding unusually far, exposing the sea floor

*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 permit you to return. **Natural and official warnings are equally important. Respond to whichever you hear or observe first.***

Fourteen new tsunami zone maps are now available for Humboldt County. These maps, prepared by members of the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group working with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office - Office of Emergency Services, show areas that may be at tsunami risk in Humboldt County. These maps are based on the biggest event and worst case tsunami likely to hit our area, a tsunami caused by a magnitude 9 earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone.

In most of the County, the boundaries between the white safe areas and yellow tsunami zones shown on the maps are marked by Entering and Leaving Tsunami Zone signs. We urge people who live, work, or play in a tsunami zone to identify the location of those signs and develop a plan on how best to get to a safe area. If a great earthquake occurs nearby, the first tsunami surges could arrive in as little as ten minutes and there will be no time for sirens to sound or other warning messages to be sent out.

Earthquake shaking that lasts twenty seconds or longer is

your warning. DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON to protect yourself during the shaking. Drop down to the ground; take cover under a sturdy table or desk if one is nearby, and hold on to it. If you are in the yellow area, evacuate by foot as soon as it is safe for you move. If you are in the white area, you are safer staying where you are and sheltering in place. Use the map to plan a safe evacuation route in advance. Practice evacuating so that you and your family know what to do during a real tsunami. Remember — go on foot. Roads may be impassable.

The maps were developed by using information from the Relative Tsunami Hazard Maps produced by Humboldt State University and tsunami inundation mapping by the California Geological Survey and the California Emergency Management Agency. They incorporate the best currently available information and may be changed or updated as additional scientific information becomes available. The maps are intended to support tsunami evacuation planning and should not be used for any other purposes. They do not represent how far an actual tsunami may penetrate inland – but show safe areas and areas that may be at risk delineated by easy-to-recognize geographic landmarks such as streets and roads. They include no information about the probability of a tsunami hitting our area and do not reflect how an actual tsunami may impact the region.

The new maps can be viewed and downloaded at http://www.humboldt.edu/rctwg/images/uploads/TsunamiBrochures_HumboldtCounty_March2012_reduced.pdf
A new set of tsunami brochures that will include the 14 new maps will soon be available.

More information on how to prepare for earthquakes and tsunamis is available in the magazine **“Living on Shaky Ground: How to Survive Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Northern California”**. Copies are available online at www.humboldt.edu/

[shakyground](#) or from the Humboldt State University Geology Department, [\(707\) 826-3931](#)

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