

## What is the All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) Siren?

*It is a pole-mounted voice/tone siren system with an intense sound that is deployed in our coastal communities.*

## What does a siren sound like?

### TSUNAMI SIREN TEST:

Some Sirens are tested *each month*. During the routine **test** of the system, the siren may play tones or chimes and a voice message, in English, will follow the test:

- **Voice Test Message:** "The following is a test of the siren system. It is only a test. This is a test of the siren warning system. If this had been a real emergency you should tune in to your local radio station or listen to this system for further instructions. This was only a test."



### TSUNAMI WARNING:

Upon the issuance of a **Tsunami Warning**, the siren will play a wail sound and a voice message, in English, will follow the siren.

- **Voice Warning Message:** "This is not a test. A tsunami warning has been issued for the coastal areas of Alaska. A tsunami can cause dangerous flooding. If you are in a low coastal area, you are at risk and must move to higher ground or inland now. Do not return until directed to do so. Tune into your local radio station for additional information. This is not a test. A tsunami warning has been issued for the coastal areas of Alaska move to higher ground or inland now."

## 3 Key elements to prepare for a tsunami

1. Develop a family disaster plan. Everyone needs to know what to do on their own to protect themselves in case of disaster.
2. Be familiar with local earthquake and tsunami plans. Know where to go to survive a tsunami. Identify an evacuation site within 15 minutes walking distance of home and/or work.
3. Prepare seven-day emergency kits for your home, vehicle, and work.

## What should I have in my *Emergency Kit*?

You should prepare an emergency kit with a seven-day supply of necessary items for each member of your family. The kit should be adapted to your needs, but keep it light and manageable in case you must evacuate on foot. Have it ready to go for immediate evacuation. Possible supplies include:

- Maps showing safe routes to high ground with assembly areas.
- Non-perishable food, cooking and eating utensils, including can opener.
- Water and a water purification kit.
- First-aid kit and prescriptions.
- Plastic bags for water storage and waste.
- Dental and personal hygiene items.
- Sturdy shoes, clothes, sleeping bag, and tent.
- Portable radio, headlamp/flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Pocket knife, whistle, matches, duct tape, and gloves.



### For more information contact:

- Your local Emergency Management Office
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, or [www.ready.alaska.gov](http://www.ready.alaska.gov)



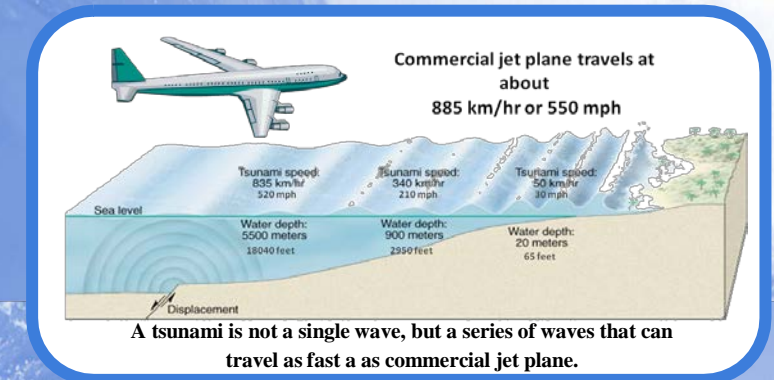
# TSUNAMI

## Information & Preparedness

*For the Ports, Harbors and Coast of Alaska*

## What is a Tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. They can occur at any time of the day or night. In deep water when a tsunami occurs, tsunamis cause no damage and are hardly noticed. As the tsunami wave approaches the shore from the open ocean, the wave slows down and can grow as high as 50-60 feet.



### Remember:

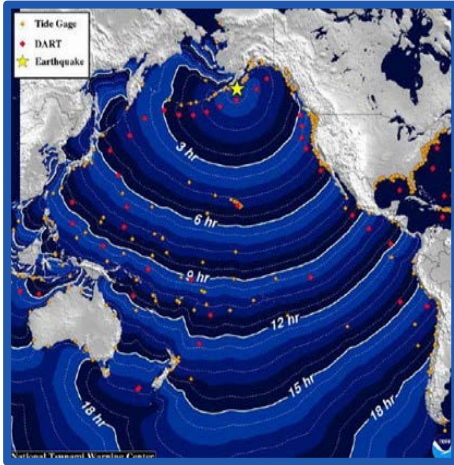
- Tsunamis are a series of waves - the first wave is not always the largest - tsunami waves can last for hours.
- Tsunamis can be thunderous walls of water that immediately flood inland areas. City streets can become river channels of floating debris.
- Tsunami waves, of any size, can create strong currents that can cause damage and easily sweep people off their feet.
- A person cannot swim, surf, or outrun a tsunami.

### Know these natural signs:

- Earthquake ground shaking.
- Unusual ocean activity, if the sea level decreases rapidly exposing the sea bed, this is a warning sign that a tsunami will arrive imminently. Do not go to the sea bed, run to high ground, immediately.
- Loud roaring sounds from the ocean, like an approaching airplane or train.

## What is the difference?

### Distant



Distant Tsunami - Travel Time Map  
Alaska across Pacific Ocean

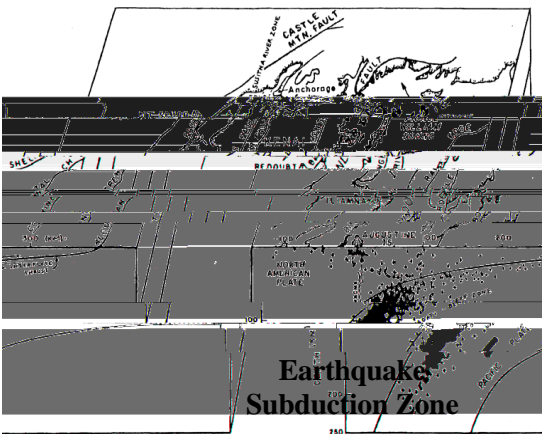
### Distant Tsunamis

Originate far away from Washington State and take more than 3 hours to reach our coast.

**Example:** The greatest distant threat is from an earthquake/tsunami off the coast of Alaska. The 1964 Alaska Earthquake/Tsunami struck our coast within 4 hours causing flooding and damage.

**Note:** Distant tsunamis allow sufficient time for officials to broadcast warnings.

### Local



### Local Tsunamis

Originate off our coast and can take 20-30 minutes or less to strike our coastline.

**Note:** Any earthquake can cause a submarine landslide that can produce a tsunami in a matter of minutes!

**Example:** Alaska is prone to local tsunamis especially in Fjord areas. Submarine landslides can create waves immediately affecting a coast community.

**Note:** There may be no time for official warnings, move inland or to high ground immediately.

## How am I warned of a tsunami?

These are the types of *Tsunami Alert Messages* sent from the National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska. You can receive tsunami alerts from a NOAA Weather Radio, radio, TV or an AHAB siren. The siren will only broadcast during a **Warning**.

Local officials provide current information to local radio/TV stations

(For other notification options contact your local emergency management office.)

Many communities have telephone warning systems that can be used to provide you with official information.



## How do I know when to evacuate?

If you *feel strong ground shaking, notice a sudden drop or rise in sea level, or hear a loud roaring sound from the ocean*; go to high ground immediately.

If you are *inside* and hear a radio/TV broadcast or NOAA Weather Radio alert; or if you are *outside* and hear an AHAB siren follow the instructions provided.

### To where do I evacuate?

A copy of the tsunami evacuation map is in the community's tsunami hazard areas. Go to the nearest high ground to an **assembly area**. If there is no high ground or not enough time to reach high ground, the only solution is to vertically evacuate into the upper levels of multi-story structures.



## What should I do?

### Action: Drop, Cover & Hold On



### Once the shaking stops: Run to High Ground



## What do the evacuation signs mean?

### Vehicle evacuation for distant tsunamis:

Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to guide coastal residents and visitors to safer locations when vehicle evacuation is possible. Evacuation signs have been placed along main roads to direct motorists to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one way to reach safer areas. These routes are marked with multiple signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

Vehicle evacuation may not always be possible. If an earthquake occurred damage to roads, debris, or downed power lines may make the roads unusable.

### Pedestrian evacuation for local tsunamis:

If you cannot leave in a vehicle, **evacuate on foot** directly to the nearest high ground. Avoid lakes and wetlands which are prone to flooding and liquefaction during aftershocks.

