TSUNAMI FAQs

get prepared in Humboldt County

Q Where are tsunami zones in Humboldt County?

A View the maps produced by the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group: www2.humboldt.edu/rctwg/site/download_tsunami_maps/. Street level tsunami zone maps are available here, accessible by smart phone or online: www.arcg.is/2q9U50p

Q How can I be warned of potential tsunami threats to Humboldt County?

A There are two ways you will learn that a tsunami may be on its way:

Natural Warning

If you feel an earthquake that lasts a long time, this is nature's warning that a tsunami may be arriving in as soon as 10 minutes. Evacuate on foot to higher ground or inland immediately.

Official Warning

• Subscribe to receive text messages from the National Tsunami Warning Center by texting "Follow NWS_NTWC" to 40404.

• Register with **Humboldt Alert** to receive notifications of hazardous conditions in the county for emergencies affecting areas that you register (home, work, your child's school).

• If a Tsunami Warning is issued for Humboldt, or is expected to be issued, all cell phones with emergency notifications enabled receive a Wireless Emergency Alert, similar to an Amber Alert.

Q Will I hear a siren any time there is a tsunami threat to Humboldt?

A No. Tsunami sirens are intended to warn that a tsunami is coming from far away, such as Alaska or Japan. However, tsunami sirens won't be audible in all tsunami zones. If there is a strong local earthquake lasting longer than 20 seconds, that is your natural warning to evacuate to higher ground or inland within 10 minutes. Warning systems and phones may be impacted by a local earthquake and unable to issue warnings.

Q What is the chance of a tsunami striking the coast in Humboldt County?

A Humboldt County is at risk of tsunamis from large earthquakes generated locally and from elsewhere in the Pacific. Earthquakes can happen at any time and cannot be predicted in advance.

Q How can I stay safe during a tsunami?

A The most important way to stay safe is to recognize the natural signs that a tsunami may be coming and to know if where you live, work or play is in a tsunami zone.

• Practice how to evacuate with your family and make sure you store a grab-and-go emergency kit by your door.

• Familiarize yourself with local tsunami zones ahead of time.

• Register to get notifications from the National Tsunami Warning Center and Humboldt County.

• In the event of a Tsunami Warning for Humboldt County, stay out of tsunami zones until the warning is canceled. Surges may continue to arrive for 24 hours or longer.

• Help others by staying off the roads during evacuations if you are not in an identified evacuation zone. Leave 911 lines open for those in need of emergency assistance.

• Ensure that you are passing along only verified information directly from local authorities, the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group, National Tsunami Warning Center or NWS. www.weather.gov/eka/

www.TsunamiZone.org
www.HumboldtGov.org/Alerts.

Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services