

TSUNAMI

A tsunami is a large wave, often caused by an earthquake, volcanic eruption, or landslide. Some areas in Contra Costa County may be subject to or affected by this type of threat. Areas at greatest risk are those less than 25 feet above sea level and within one mile of the shoreline.

If a Tsunami Occurs:

A noticeable rapid rise or fall in coastal waters is also a sign that a tsunami is approaching.

- Remain calm.
- Alert others in the immediate area to the situation and direct them to safety.
- Leave everything else behind. A tsunami may be coming within minutes. Move quickly to higher ground. If possible, reach an area 100 feet above sea level or travel up to two miles inland, away from the coastline. If you are not able to reach an area this high or far, move as high as you can. Every foot inland or upward may make a difference
- After a disaster, roads may become impassable or blocked. Be prepared to evacuate by foot if necessary.
- Once you are in a safe area, report the situation to police. If the condition is life-threatening, dial **9-1-1** (or **9-9-1-1** from office phones). In all other cases, dial the police non-emergency number. If there are no telephones immediately available and it is safe to do so, send someone to notify the police. Provide the dispatcher/responders with the location of the situation and any injured/trapped persons. Remain available to answer questions and provide other critical information.

If a Tsunami Warning is Issued:

- Monitor the situation through radio or television broadcasts, weather alert radio, or the Internet. Listen to a portable radio (740 AM) or access the District Alert Bulletins page at http://www.4cd.net/police_services/alertbulletins.asp for Emergency Alert System updates and information. Follow all instructions provided by safety personnel and/or emergency response authorities.

If Evacuation Becomes Necessary:

- Remain calm.
- Leave the area to be evacuated in an orderly manner.
- Assist any persons with disabilities or other special needs.

- If exiting an upper floor, use the stairs. Once outside, move quickly away from the building or hazard area.
- Avoid flooded areas, moving water, and water that is more than knee-deep.
- Proceed to a designated Assembly Area or other safe area at least five hundred (500) feet from any buildings or potentially affected areas.

If You Become Trapped:

- Remain calm. If you are able to do so, report your situation and location by dialing **9-1-1** (or **9-9-1-1** from office phones).
- Place an article of clothing or other item in the window to alert rescuers to your location.
- Whistle, shout, or use any object at hand to pound on a wall or door. Make loud noise at regular intervals to alert rescuers to your location.
- If you are able to do so, move to an upper floor above the high water level.
- Wait for help—do not attempt to swim to safety.
- If you are injured, tend to your injuries.

If You are Driving:

- Remain calm.
- Do not drive where water is over the road—parts of the road may already be washed out and your vehicle may become trapped.
- If your vehicle stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible and move to higher ground. Do not attempt to save your vehicle. Waters may rise quickly and sweep both you and your vehicle away.

Once at an Assembly Area or Other Safe Area:

- Check yourself for injuries.* People are often so concerned about others that they often forget to check themselves.
If it is safe to do so, provide first aid and appropriate care for the injured or ill person. Whenever possible, if blood, vomit, or other bodily fluids are present, avoid contact with these and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, mask, etc.). Do not move seriously injured people unless movement is necessary to protect them from immediate, life-threatening danger.
- Report any injuries, trapped persons, or hazardous conditions to police by dialing **9-1-1** (or **9-9-1-1** from office phones). If there are no telephones immediately available and it is safe to do so, send someone to notify the police. Provide the dispatcher/responders with the name(s), location(s), and/or description(s) of any victims(s), as well as the description, location, and type(s) of any hazardous conditions, and any other critical information.

- Use the telephone only to report life-threatening emergencies.* Telephone lines are frequently overwhelmed in emergency situations and must remain clear for emergency calls.
- Account for co-workers, students, and/or visitors. Supervisors and faculty members should document the names of those who have been safely evacuated.

Additional Procedures:

- Do not re-enter buildings or areas until officials have determined that it is safe to re-enter.
- If employees, students, or others are unable to leave the site or facility due to flooding conditions, provide for their care and shelter.
- If the incident or response to the incident is likely to continue for an extended period, site administrators should consider activating the site Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and begin organizing response and recovery efforts.
- Be prepared to open designated shelter sites for use.

Decision to Evacuate/Dismiss Personnel

The Chief Administrator of an affected facility is the individual authorized to make decisions regarding the management of emergencies at that facility. The Chief Administrator typically decides whether or not to evacuate the facility and/or dismiss personnel after receiving input and/or recommendations from the Incident Commander or other professional responders.

Decisions may be based upon availability of communications, transportation, supplies, and other resources, or upon damage to site facilities, surrounding areas, and availability of nearby roadways.

Mitigation Efforts

To minimize the risk of injuries to persons or damage to property upon or within District facilities and/or buildings as a result of flooding, it is critical to follow established safety practices and mitigation procedures. To help mitigate the effects of flooding and be prepared for a tsunami:

- Monitor coastal or waterfront conditions carefully after an earthquake or other event that may have the potential to create a tsunami.
- Keep emergency supplies on hand, including water, non-perishable foods, blankets, a first aid kit, flashlight, and any personal medications needed.
- Keep vehicle gas tanks at least half full.
- Back up important computer data and store back-up copies in secure,

off-site locations.