

## In the event of a Tsunami

### What to Do?

#### Natural warnings

If you are at the coast and you experience any of the following:

- you feel a strong earthquake (it is hard to stand up or walk steadily, there is significant household contents damage and building damage).
- you feel a weak earthquake that lasts for a minute or more
- you see strange sea behaviour, such as the sea level suddenly rising or falling
- you hear the sea making loud and unusual noises or roaring like a jet engine

*Then* get to high ground or go inland.

**Do not** wait for an official warning. Instead, let the natural signs be your warning. First protect yourself from falling objects then immediately get to high ground or go inland. Wait for official all clear. The first wave may arrive within minutes, or take more than an hour to arrive.

#### Official warnings

- Official warnings are expected to come for sources that are more than three hours of tsunami travel time away from Hawke's Bay, Martinborough or Marlborough.
- An official warning from Civil Defence Emergency Management may be issued through radio or television broadcasts.
- Warnings may also be through siren, telephone, loud hailer or other local arrangements.
- You may receive warnings from one, or several sources. Respond to the first warning, do not wait for more messages before you act.
- Listen to your radio and follow any official instructions.
- Evacuate from the areas or zone(s) stated in the warning.
- Stay out until the official 'all-clear' is given.

#### Informal warnings

- Warnings from friends, other members of the public, international media, internet, etc. may be correct. Informal communication may be your only warning especially for tsunami from less than three hours tsunami travel time away from you.
- If you feel the threat is imminent, quickly get to high ground or, if the surrounding area is flat, go as far inland as possible.
- Verify the warning only if you can do so quickly (via NZ TV/Radio broadcasts, internet, Civil Defence Emergency Management, Police, Fire).
- The first or largest wave may not arrive for 6 hours after the forecast arrival time.
- If New Zealand Civil Defence Emergency Management warnings are available, trust their message over informal warnings.

#### Sources of Additional Information

[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)

[www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)

[www.hastingsdc.govt.nz](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz)

[www.swdc.govt.nz/welcome](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/welcome)

[www.marlborough.govt.nz](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz)