

Emergency Contact numbers

BVI Tourist Board:	494-3134
Department of Disaster Management:	468-4200
Airlines & Ferry Companies :	
American Airlines:	495-2559
LIAT:	495-2577
Cape Air:	495-1440
Tortola Fast Ferry (Smith's Ferry Services):	494-4430
Road Town Fast Ferry:	494-2323
Native Son Express:	494-5674
Virgin Gorda Transport (Speedy's):	495-5240

Emergency Contact numbers

Police, Fire & Ambulance:	999/911
Virgin Islands Search & Rescue:	767 (S.O.S)
RVIPF Police Headquarters:	494-3822
Peebles Hospital:	494-3497
Road Town Clinic:	494-3455
Virgin Gorda Clinic:	495-5337
Anegada Clinic:	495-8049
Jost Van Dyke Clinic:	495-9239
Brewer's Bay Clinic	495-9142
Capoons Bay Clinic	495-4610
East End Clinic	495-2205
North Sound Clinic	495-7210

Tsunami
Awareness Guide
for Visitors

Produced by
The British Virign Islands Tourist Board
in conjunction with
The Department of Disaster Management
(Government of the Virgin Islands, UK)
CDERA
&
Austrian Development Cooperation
Information sources: bviddm.com, NOAA, bvitourism.com



Austrian
Development Cooperation



Did You Know?

The British Virgin Islands has a climate that is typically sunny amidst its naturally beautiful and diverse environment but it is also at risk to many types of disasters or hazards including tsunamis. Our aim is for our visitors to enjoy the environment while on vacation by keeping you safe and out of harm's way. As a visitor, you can help us to do so by following some of these simple steps and guidelines. In preparing for tsunamis, it is important to have basic knowledge of the causes, effects and impacts:



Definition

A tsunami (pronounced too-NAH-mee) is a large, potentially destructive sea wave generated by any disturbance that displaces a large water mass from its position of equilibrium.

Causes

Most tsunamis are formed as a result of large submarine earthquakes, which displace large amounts of water. Tsunamis may also result from the eruption or collapse of island or coastal volcanoes, and from the formation of giant landslides on marine margins.

Even the impact of a cosmic body like a meteorite may cause a tsunami.

Earthquakes measuring 7.5 or greater may trigger either a local tsunami or a tele-tsunami. A **local tsunami** is one that occurs close to a coast line and travel time is less than one hour before it reaches land.

A **tele-tsunami** is one that occurs outside of the region and the travel time is several hours before it reaches land in the Caribbean.

Characteristics of a Tsunami

- Because of wave physics, tsunamis tend to be small – even imperceptible while travelling over open water, and do not “size up” until they approach a shoreline.
- As a tsunami approaches shore, it begins to slow, often with an abnormal recession of the sea. Tsunamis reach the coastline with tremendous amounts of energy because their height increases as they reach the continental shelf, tsunamis may reach a maximum vertical height onshore above sea levels of 10, 20, and sometimes even 30 meters.
- A tsunami consists of a series of waves and the first wave is not necessarily the biggest.
- Because tsunamis can travel very far without losing much energy, they can affect places that are a great distance from their source.

Effects

Capable of flooding hundreds of meters inland past the typical high-water level. The fast-moving water associated with the incoming tsunami can crush homes and other coastal structures. Tsunamis can also sweep boats onto shore and drown people and animals.

What to Do:

- If a **Tsunami Warning** is issued, NEVER go down to the beach to watch the wave come in!
- Remember that a tsunami is a series of waves and the first wave is not necessarily the biggest.
- Stay out of danger until an “all-clear” is issued by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM).
- Familiarise yourself with the Earthquake Scale (see Earthquake Awareness Brochure).
- If you feel an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 or greater and you are situated near the coast– do not wait for a warning to be issued. As a precautionary measure evacuate immediately and travel inland and uphill.
- If you also see the sea withdrawing, without having felt an earthquake, evacuate the coastline immediately, and travel inland and uphill. Retreating tides are often a precursor to the arrival of a tsunami.
- Find out if your hotel/villa is in a low-lying coastal area and familiarise yourself with the quickest way to retreat to high grounds. Ensure that all family members are briefed.
- Listen to the radio for official updates and instructions.
- Gather disaster supplies (see list)

After a Tsunami:

- Stay tuned to a battery-operated radio for the latest emergency information.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for medical assistance.
- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return to Hotel/ Villa only when authorities say it is safe.
- Never attempt to move live wires.

- Do Not attempt to fix but rather report any damages of hotel property immediately to management.
- Check with hotel management before utilizing tap water.
- Fresh food that has come in contact with flood water may be contaminated and should be thrown out.

The BVI Tourist Board kindly asks all visitors not to take photos of the damages caused by a tsunami for purposes such as blogs, websites or media. Our Territory is highly dependent on you, our visitors and negative publicity greatly affects our Industry. The Board is responsible for issuing accurate information for the International media.

Emergency Supplies List

- First Aid kit
- Medicines, prescriptions
- Baby food & diapers
- Toiletries, sanitary napkins
- Battery-powered radio & cell phones
- Flashlights
- Extra Batteries
- Cash & credit cards
- Secured
- Important Documents secured in waterproof container/Ziploc storage bags
- games, books, music players with headphones
- blankets & pillows
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Dry food goods

Please do not take photos of Tsunami damage and publish them

