What's a tsunami?
Words to Know

Tsunamis: A series of waves of extremely long length and time period, usually caused by shallow undersea earthquakes. In the deep ocean, they can travel at speeds of more that 500 mph. Other causes of tsunamis include volcanic eruptions, submarine landslides, and coastal rock falls. Tsunamis are not tidal waves.

Tsunami Warning: A Tsunami Warning is issued by the National Weather Service over the radio and TV. A Tsunami Warning is issued for a locality when significant widespread flooding is certain or expected.

Tsunami Watch: A Tsunami Watch is issued to alert the public that a tsunami may later impact the watch area. Listen to the radio or TV for updates.

Tsunami Advisory: A Tsunami Advisory is issued when a tsunami may have generated strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or near the water.

Earthquake: Shaking created in the earth’s crust by land movement.

Inland: Towards or away from an area’s coast.

Evacuate: To leave a place in a quick and organized way.
A tsunami is a SERIES of traveling waves.
When an earthquake knocks you off your feet, don't wait!

Drop, Cover, and Hold on!

After the shaking stops, quickly get to higher ground because a tsunami may be coming.
Tsunamis can be small or as tall as 100 feet or more.
During a tsunami, water can rise up higher than a coconut tree.

If you can’t get to higher ground, go to the top floor of a tall concrete building.
Follow the Tsunami Evacuation Route signs to a safe Assembly Area.

What should I do?
When you feel an earthquake, and the ocean level rises or falls rapidly, don’t wait for a warning!

GET AWAY FROM THE BEACH!
The first wave may not be the biggest.
Tsunamis can happen within MINUTES of an earthquake and without WARNING.
BE PREPARED!

Know where to go for safety from a tsunami.
When seconds count, TsunamiReady™ communities are prepared.

In Case of Earthquake, Go to High Ground or Inland

For more information on tsunamis, visit www.tsunami.gov

This booklet was modified by International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) from ‘What is a tsunami?’ by Ginessa Quake and Tsunami Mikenna created by Guam Homeland Security, Office of Civil Defense www.ghs.guam.gov