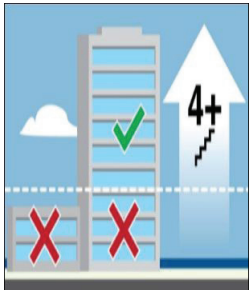


WHAT TO DO IN A TSUNAMI WARNING?

- When an evacuation is necessary, sirens will sound. Significant and widespread land flooding is expected. Stay away from rivers, streams and any water channels that lead to the ocean due to strong tsunami wave action and currents. If you are not in a tsunami evacuation zone, stay where you are to minimize traffic congestion.
- Check Hawai'i radio and TV stations, [www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense) or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency information. (National news stations may not have information about Hawai'i)
- If you are in a metropolitan area with high-rise buildings, vertical evacuation maybe an option. The building must be at least 10 stories of reinforced concrete and you must move to the 4th floor or higher for safety. Move boats and ships to deep water if there is time.
- Stay out of Tsunami Evacuation Zones until an "All Clear" is issued by local emergency officials. Obey local emergency and law enforcement authorities. Do not return to Tsunami Evacuation Zones until local authorities say it is safe.
- Check local Hawai'i radio/TV stations, [www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense) or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency information, regarding long- term public shelters and/or disaster assistance centers.



IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THE NATURAL WARNING SIGNS, FOLLOW THIS ADVICE:

- Evacuate immediately to safe zones, inland to high ground and away from low-lying coastal areas. Or move vertically into a building that is at least 10 stories, to the 4th floor or higher.
- Do not wait for an official warning.
- Go on foot or bicycle if at all possible.
- Do not pack your belongings or delay.
- Do not return to the beach – large waves may continue to come onshore for hours.

HOW DO I PREPARE?

- Double check if you live, work, play, or travel in a Tsunami Evacuation Zone or in a Safe Zone.
- Study the Tsunami Evacuation Information and Maps online at [www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense), in the local Hawaiian Telcom White Pages Telephone Book, or at any Public Library.
- Prepare a GO BAG of essential items beforehand. A GO BAG is a bag, suitcase, or kit that you can quickly grab and take with you during an emergency situation.



Water



Food



Radio



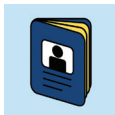
Flashlight



Medicine



First Aid



Important Documents

GO BAG  
Contents

ONE-STEP NOTIFICATION  
SIGN UP NOW  
Blackboard connect

WHAT TO DO FOR DISTANT EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS?

For earthquakes that occur around the Pacific Rim, check if there is a Tsunami Watch, Advisory, or Warning for Hawai'i.

WHAT TO DO FOR LOCAL EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS?

DROP

Drop down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn't knock you down.

COVER

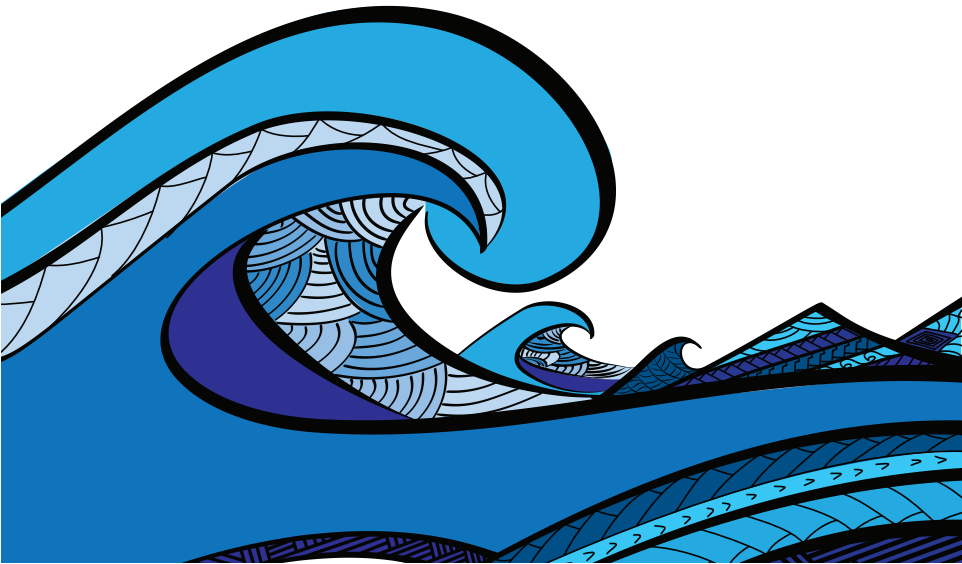
Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris. Stay away from glass and windows.

HOLD

Hold on to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops.

- Stay where you are until the shaking stops. Do not go outside until the shaking stops.
- The earthquake may have caused a local tsunami that could arrive in a few minutes. If you are near the ocean, move immediately to higher ground to a Safe Zone outside of the Tsunami Evacuation Zone once the shaking stops.
- Do not wait for a tsunami warning to be issued.
- Calmly walk or bike to a Safe Zone, do not drive your vehicle.

ENGLISH



TSUNAMI FACTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Prepare today for a tsunami

Learn about tsunami facts and help save lives!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

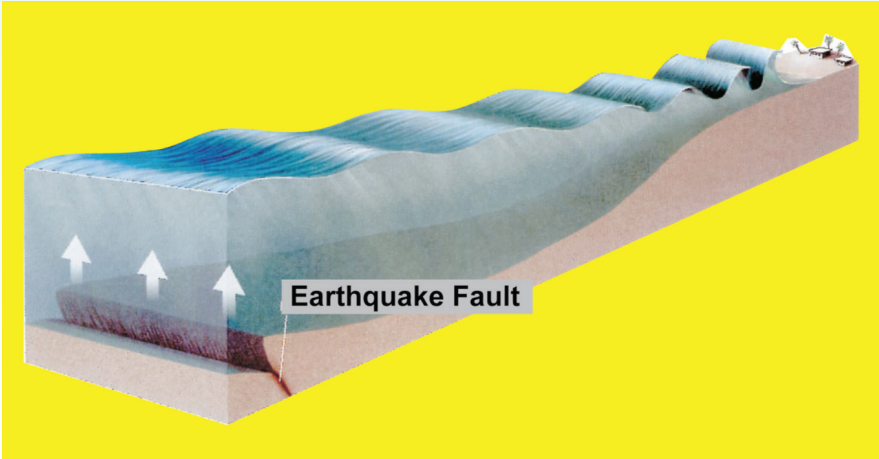


Hawai'i Civil Defense Agency  
<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/civil-defense>  
[civildefense@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:civildefense@hawaiicounty.gov)  
Phone (808) 935-0031

HAWAI'I

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

- Tsunamis are a series of very dangerous, large, long ocean waves. You cannot swim or surf tsunamis because they flood the land like a rushing river (or fast-rising tide) rather than curling and breaking like a regular surfing wave. Tsunamis pick up and carry debris, which greatly increases the chance of injury.
  - Tsunami waves may keep coming for hours, with waves arriving every 10 minutes to one hour apart. The first wave may not be the largest.
  - Tsunamis travel as fast as a jet airliner (approximately 500 mph) in the deep ocean with waves only a few inches high.
  - As tsunamis approach the shore they slow down but increase dramatically in height. Tsunamis strike with devastating force and quickly flood all low-lying coastal areas threatening life and property.
- Historically, locations in Hawai'i have been flooded with water more than 30 feet deep.
- Tsunamis are usually caused by shallow, undersea earthquakes.
  - Tsunamis are less frequently caused by underwater volcanic eruptions, landslides, slumps, and meteorites.

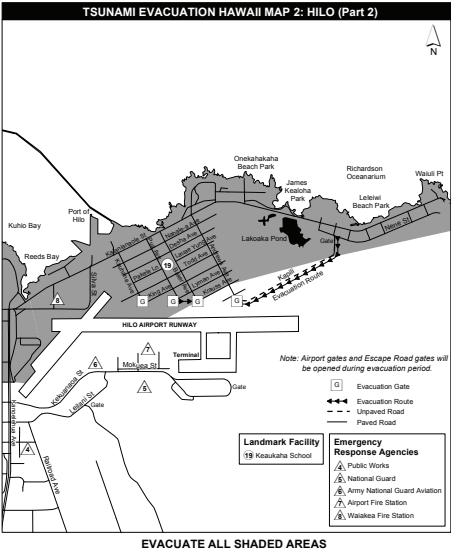
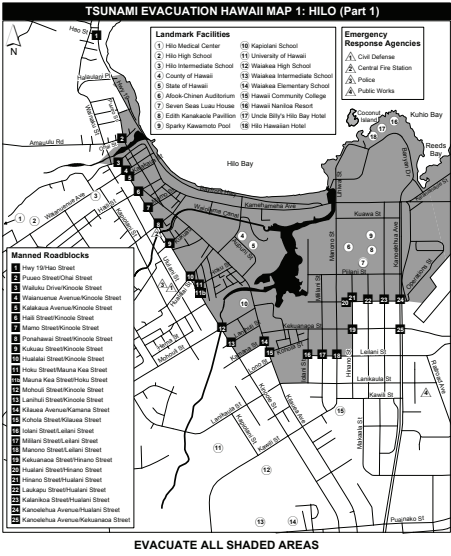


THESE ARE NATURAL WARNING SIGNS THAT A TSUNAMI MAY BE APPROACHING

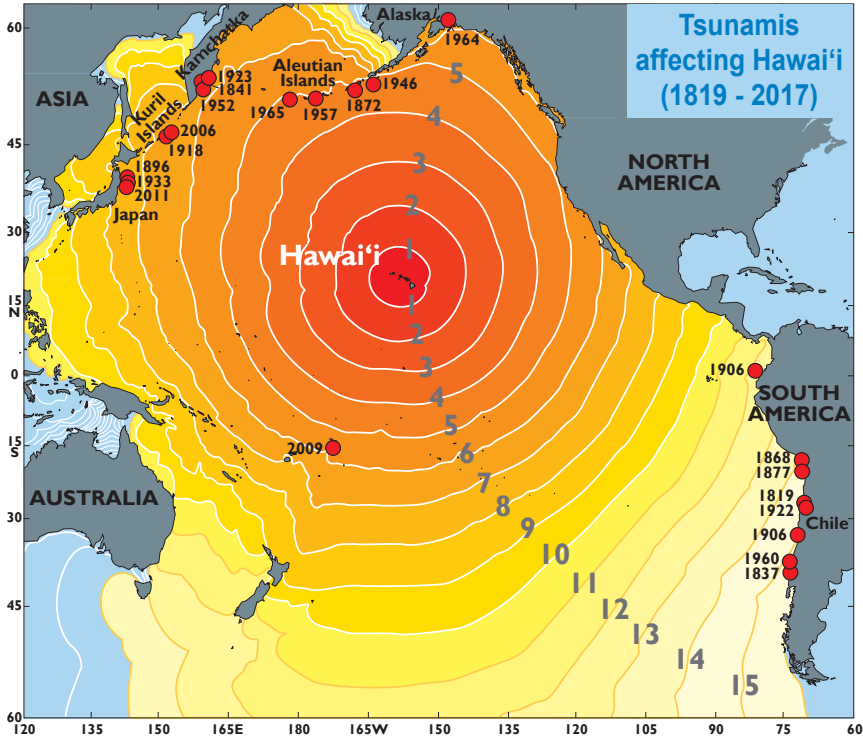
- FEEL:** Feel the earth shake (earthquake) so strong that you feel you cannot stand.
- SEE:** See the ocean water recede, swirl or act unusual.
- HEAR:** Hear the roar of the tsunami that sounds like a jet aircraft or freight train.

TSUNAMI ALERT LEVELS  
PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER (PTWC)

- **Tsunami Information Statement**  
If a Tsunami Information Statement is issued, there is no tsunami threat.
- **Tsunami Watch**  
If a Tsunami Watch is issued, it is not known if an earthquake has generated a tsunami. The watch will either be cancelled or upgraded to an advisory or warning.
- **Tsunami Advisory**  
If a Tsunami Advisory is issued, you should move away from beaches and low-lying coastal areas and evacuate harbors/marinas.  
  
Move boats and ships to deep water if there is time. You can expect strong currents and dangerous waves in coastal areas and waterways. But significant land flooding is not expected.
- **Tsunami Warning**  
If a Tsunami Warning is issued, quickly leave Tsunami Evacuation Zones (outlined in a bold line) to Safe Areas as indicated on the Tsunami Evacuation Map.



Tsunami Evacuation Map (Hilo)



Each ring equals 1 hour of tsunami travel time coming to Hawai'i.

AFTER A TSUNAMI. WHEN IS IT SAFE TO RETURN?

- A tsunami may have been destructive or non- destructive. If it was destructive, emergency search and rescue operations will immediately start on land and at sea. An “All Clear” to return to impacted areas may not be issued for hours or days.
- If the tsunami was non-destructive, an “All Clear” allowing return to coastal areas may be issued. But an “All Clear” to return to the water, may not necessarily be issued.
- Coastal areas could be devastated with flooding, damaged homes, buildings, debris, fires, hazardous material spills (HAZMAT) and inoperable utility lifeline systems (electrical, telecommunications, roads / bridges, natural gas lines, etc.) An “All Clear” will not be issued until roadway debris is cleared.
- Wait for an “All Clear” from local emergency officials before returning to low-lying areas or the water.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

HAWAI'I CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY  
WWW.HAWAIICOUNTY.GOV/CIVIL-DEFENSE  
CIVILDEFENSE@HAWAIICOUNTY.GOV  
PHONE (808) 935-0031

INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER  
PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER  
TSUNAMIHAWAII.ORG TSUNAMI.GOV ITIC.TSUNAMI@NOAA.GOV  
PHONE (808) 725-6050