

National Advisory Tsunami Potential Threat to NZ

No: 01

Action: Refer to fax or email.

Attention:	CDEM Manager/Contingency Manager	Date: 15/07/2009
Organisation:	CDEM Groups/Local Authorities/NZ Fire Service, NZ Police/Other Agencies	Time: 2156 hours
Cc:	MCDEM Regional Emergency Management Advisors	
From:	Director, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)	

Tsunami advisory in effect:

There is a potential threat of a tsunami impacting on New Zealand coastlines.

This tsunami advisory will remain in effect until either the advisory is upgraded to a warning or a cancellation message is issued by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management.

Earthquake parameters:

Location:	Off West Coast of South Island
Time and date:	0923Z 15 Jul 2009
NZ time:	2123 NZST 15 Jul 2009
Co-ordinates:	46.1 South 166.3 East
Depth:	Shallower than 100km
Magnitude:	7.8

The above magnitude is provisional and may be adjusted as more seismic data becomes available.

Analysis of threat:

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) is assessing information further with the assistance of scientific advisors.

Based on current information, the initial assessment is that the earthquake may have caused a tsunami that could pose a threat to New Zealand.

Estimated wave arrival times and wave heights

If a tsunami wave was generated, the time of arrival of the first wave to impact on New Zealand coastal area(s) is estimated to be at: 2151 NZST 15 July 2009 at Milford Sounds.

Estimations of initial wave arrival times to New Zealand coastal areas and estimated wave heights are provided in the table below.

Note: Historical records have shown that arrival times may be 60 minutes earlier or later than estimated, and that the first wave may not be the largest. Waves may manifest in a series of waves that can be dangerous for several hours.

Location	Estimated Wave Arrival Time	Estimated Wave Height
Chatham Islands-Kaingaroa	No Information	No Information
Chatham Islands-Waitangi	No Information	No Information
North Cape	No Information	No Information
Whangarei	No Information	No Information
Auckland (West)	0017 NZST 16 July 2009	No Information
Mt Maunganui	No Information	No Information
East Cape	No Information	No Information
Gisborne	No Information	No Information
New Plymouth	0033 NZST 16 July 2009	No Information
Napier	No Information	No Information
Wanganui	No Information	No Information
Wellington	0129 NZST 16 July 2009	No Information
Nelson	0041 NZST 16 July 2009	No Information
Marlborough Sounds	No Information	No Information
Westport	2316 NZST 15 July 2009	No Information
Greymouth	No Information	No Information
Lyttelton	No Information	No Information
Timaru	No Information	No Information
Milford Sound	2151 NZST 15 July 2009	No Information
Dunedin	2357 NZST 15 July 2009	No Information
Bluff	2231 NZST 15 July 2009	No Information
Stewart Island	No Information	No Information

Evaluation background:

This analysis is based on New Zealand scientific advice and takes account of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) watch/warnings.

NCMC status: The National Crisis Management Centre is activated.

Contact details:

General enquiries	(04) 494 6900
Media enquiries	(04) 494 6951
Email	operations@ncmc.govt.nz
Satellite phone	00881 621 465 606
HF radio call sign	ZKC21

Next steps:

Subsequent information or a cancellation message will follow this Advisory via the National Warning System.

Issued by:

Message authorised by the National Controller, Civil Defence Emergency Management.

End of Message



Media Release

15 July

2009

22:23

Potential Tsunami Threat to New Zealand

It is possible that there is a tsunami risk to New Zealand from the 7.8 earthquake that occurred near Tuatapere today at 2123 NZST. The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is continuing to monitor the situation.

This message is **not** a warning but an advisory for the public to continue listening for further information. The Ministry will, as soon as possible, follow this media release with either a cancellation or an official warning.

The Ministry's Director, John Hamilton, said that the Ministry has received information about the earthquake from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii and GNS Science in New Zealand.

The information from PTWC and GNS Science indicates there is a possibility of tsunami risk to New Zealand.

"GNS Science is closely monitoring and analysing all available New Zealand and international data about the earthquake as well as the sea levels, and may convene the tsunami expert panel," Mr Hamilton said.

"The Ministry will release further information as soon as it becomes available".

Media contact:

Public Information Duty Manager,

Telephone: Mobile 027 268 8463, Office: 04 495 6835

E-mail: pim@ncmc.govt.nz

Useful websites:

<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/web/GetThru.nsf/web/BOWN-7GZVAT?OpenDocument>

<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/>

www.geonet.org.nz/tsunami

National Advisory Tsunami Cancellation Message

No: 01

Action: Refer to fax or email. Do not confirm receipt of this message.

Attention:	CDEM Manager/Contingency Manager	Date: 15/07/2009
Organisation:	CDEM Groups/Local Authorities/NZ Fire Service, NZ Police/Other Agencies	Time: 22:52 hours
Cc:	MCDEM Regional Emergency Management Advisors	
From:	Director, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)	

No further tsunami threat:

A small tsunami of 0.17m was recorded at Jackson Bay. Based on that information the potential threat warning is now lifted. No further tsunami threat exists for New Zealand coastlines as a result of the earthquake described below.

Earthquake parameters:

Location:	Off West Coast of South Island
Time and date:	0923Z 15 Jul 2009
NZ time:	2123 NZST 15 Jul 2009
Co-ordinates:	46.1 South 166.3 East
Depth:	Shallower than 100km
Magnitude:	7.8

The above magnitude is provisional and may be adjusted as more seismic data becomes available.

Actions required:

1. Do **not** confirm receipt of this Cancellation
2. Follow your emergency response procedures.

NCMC status: The National Crisis Management Centre is activated.

Contact details:

General enquiries	(04) 494 6914
Media enquiries	(04) 494 6914
Email	operations@ncmc.govt.nz
Satellite phone	00881 621 465 606
HF radio call sign	ZKC21

Next steps:

This is the last message via the National Warning System for this event.

Issued by:

Message authorised by the National Controller, Civil Defence Emergency Management.

End of Message



Media Release

15 July

2009

23:05 hours

Cancellation of Potential Tsunami Threat Notification

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management has now confirmed that there is no tsunami risk to New Zealand from the 7.8 Mw earthquake that occurred off the coast of Southland today at 21:23 hours.

The Ministry's Director, John Hamilton, said that "All available New Zealand and international data about the earthquake and sea levels showed that there is no tsunami threat to New Zealand. A small tsunami measuring 0.17m was recorded by the Jackson Bay sea level gauge. Based on that information we are now cancelling the precautionary advisory we issued at 21:56 hours today."

Media contact:

Public Information Duty Manager,

Telephone: Mobile 027 276 7587, Office: 04 495 6835

E-mail: pim@ncmc.govt.nz

Useful websites:

<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/web/GetThru.nsf/web/BOWN-7GZVAT?OpenDocument>

<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/>

www.geonet.org.nz/tsunami/