



PREPARING FOR TSUNAMI

The more prepared you are for emergencies, the less stressful they become. Some simple steps can help you to plan and prepare for unexpected events like a tsunami and protect you, your loved ones and your property.

After inundation by a tsunami it is essential that the house is dry before repairs can begin. It may be some months before repairs can start if the home requires strip-out, drying and decontamination first.

Signs of a tsunami

- * An earthquake is a natural tsunami warning
- * If you feel a strong quake, do not stay close to the ocean
- * A roaring sound may be heard from the sea before a tsunami
- * A noticeable fall or rise in the sea level
- * If you see the sea rising or receding rapidly or far, go to high ground immediately
- * A receding ocean may give as much as five minutes warning to evacuate the area
- * A tsunami is a series of waves that can last for several hours after the first one
- * A tsunami wave train may come as a series of surges five minutes to an hour apart
- * The cycle may be marked by repeated retreat and advance of the ocean
- * A tsunami surge may be small at one point of the shore and large at another



During a tsunami

- Listen to ABC Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates
- Have an emergency plan
- Know your evacuation areas
- Go to higher ground - at least ten metres above sea level
- If possible move at least one kilometre away from all beaches and the water's edge
- Take only essential items that you can carry
- Walk to safety if possible to avoid traffic jams
- If you can't leave the area, shelter in the upper level of a multi-storey building
- Do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami - it is dangerous
- Try to stay calm and help others around you
- If in a boat offshore, stay in deep water until advised safe to return

After a tsunami

- Listen to ABC Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates
- Stay at high ground till advised safe to leave
- Beware of damaged buildings, power lines, bridges and trees
- Check for cracks to your home's floors, walls and ceilings
- Evacuate if the building is badly damaged
- A hose, or hoses that can reach all around the house
- Turn off electricity, gas or water until they're checked for safety
- Wear rubber soled shoes or boots & rubber or leather gloves
- Treat water before use
- Treat all items exposed to water as contaminated

