



Tsunamis in Australia, occur about once every 2 years and usually pose little threat to coastal communities. When they do occur they can be devastating, causing loss of life and property damage. It is important you understand the potential impact and have an action plan to keep you and your family safe if you live in a coastal area.

If your home is damaged by a tsunami call us on 1300 552 662 to lodge your claim. Alternatively submit a claim online at [www.dsh.gov.au](http://www.dsh.gov.au) or email us at [dsh@dva.gov.au](mailto:dsh@dva.gov.au).



**UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK** - If you live in a coastal community in Australia, you should be aware and prepared for the threat of tsunami. The amount of energy in a tsunami can cause extreme destruction when it strikes land. Even a relatively small one can cause a lot of damage and loss of life.



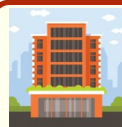
**CREATE AN EMERGENCY PLAN** - You can find a guide on the [Australian Red Cross](http://www.redcross.org.au) website to help you make an Emergency Plan. Make sure everyone knows the plan and whether you will stay or evacuate. Decide what the trigger will be to evacuate. Check your insurance policies and make plans for pets or livestock.



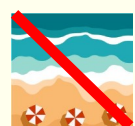
**STAY INFORMED** - Tune into your ABC local radio and heed warnings and advice. Follow local instructions and take immediate action, no matter how small the tsunami may be.



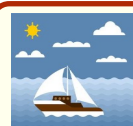
**IF YOU ARE AT OR NEAR THE BEACH** - Move to higher ground, at least ten metres above sea level. If possible move at least one kilometre away from all beaches and the water's edge of harbours and coastal estuaries



**IF YOU ARE AT THE COAST AND CANNOT MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND** - Take shelter in the upper storey of a sturdy brick or concrete multi-storey building.



**DO NOT GO TO THE COAST TO WATCH A TSUNAMI** - A tsunami is a series of waves that may be from 5 minutes to 1 hour apart. The first wave may not be the most dangerous. The danger can last for several hours after the arrival of the first wave. Stay out of danger until advised it is safe to return.



**IF YOU ARE IN A BOAT** - If you are in a boat at sea, stay offshore in deep water until further advised. If you are in harbour, an estuary or shallow coastal water, return to shore - secure your boat and move away from the waterfront.



**CHECK YOUR HOME FOR DAMAGE** - Turn off electricity, gas and water and check whether they have been affected. Check for cracks and damage to your building's floors, walls and ceilings. Evacuate if the building is badly damaged.



**TREAT ALL ITEMS EXPOSED TO WATER AS CONTAMINATED** - Wear rubber boots and gloves, dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can. Wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with water. Ensure water is treated before use.



**WAIT FOR AN ALL CLEAR** - A Tsunami Warning Cancellation will be issued when the threat has passed. Do not return to the foreshore until an All Clear has been issued by emergency services.