

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-117

Tsunami Preparedness Guide

A Practical Guide to Protecting Your Family Before, During, and After a
Tsunami

Building Resilient Communities Together

Tsunamis Can Arrive Quickly

A tsunami is a series of powerful ocean waves that can be triggered by undersea earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides.

Although tsunamis are less common than many other natural hazards, they can cause widespread destruction in coastal communities.

Knowing what to do before a tsunami occurs can save lives.

Preparedness begins before the water rises.

Why Tsunami Preparedness Matters

Preparing for a tsunami helps your family:

- Recognize natural warning signs.
- Evacuate quickly to higher ground.
- Stay informed through official alerts.
- Reduce the risk of injury.
- Recover safely after the event.

Preparation gives your family valuable time to act.

Before a Tsunami

Take these important steps:

- ☐ Learn whether you live, work, or visit a tsunami hazard zone.
- ☐ Know your community's evacuation routes.
- ☐ Identify safe locations on higher ground.
- ☐ Prepare your family emergency plan.
- ☐ Build an emergency kit.
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts.
- ☐ Practice evacuation drills.

Prepared families know where to go before an emergency happens.

Know the Natural Warning Signs

Do not wait for an official warning if you notice:

- ☐ A strong or long-lasting earthquake.
- ☐ A sudden rise or rapid retreat of ocean water.
- ☐ A loud roaring sound coming from the ocean.

If you notice any of these signs:

Move immediately to higher ground.

If a Tsunami Warning Is Issued

When authorities issue a warning:

- ☐ Evacuate immediately.
- ☐ Follow designated evacuation routes.
- ☐ Move inland or to higher ground.
- ☐ Take your emergency kit if time allows.
- ☐ Bring your pets.
- ☐ Stay away from beaches, rivers, and coastal areas.

Never go to the shoreline to watch the waves.

During a Tsunami

If you are already in a safe location:

- ☐ Stay there.
- ☐ Listen to official emergency updates.
- ☐ Keep family members together.
- ☐ Be prepared for multiple waves.

The first wave is not always the largest.

If You Are Boating

Follow guidance from maritime authorities.

Depending on your location, it may be safer to:

- ☐ Stay offshore in deep water.

or

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- ☐ Return to shore before dangerous conditions develop.

Always follow official instructions.

After the Tsunami

Return only when authorities declare it safe.

When you return:

- ☐ Watch for debris and damaged structures.
- ☐ Avoid floodwaters.
- ☐ Stay away from damaged utility lines.
- ☐ Photograph property damage if safe.
- ☐ Continue monitoring official information.

Recovery begins with caution.

Protecting Children

Help children by:

- ☐ Teaching tsunami warning signs.
- ☐ Practicing evacuation routes.
- ☐ Explaining why immediate action is important.
- ☐ Reassuring them after the emergency.

Prepared children respond with greater confidence.

Protecting Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

Ensure they have:

- ☐ Transportation plans.
- ☐ Emergency medications.
- ☐ Mobility equipment.
- ☐ Caregiver support.
- ☐ Emergency contacts.

Preparation improves safety for everyone.

Caring for Pets

Prepare:

- ☐ Food.
- ☐ Water.
- ☐ Leash or carrier.
- ☐ Medications.
- ☐ Vaccination records.
- ☐ Comfort items.

Never leave pets behind during an evacuation.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Learn your nearest tsunami evacuation route.
- ☐ Identify the closest safe location on higher ground.
- ☐ Practice your evacuation plan with your family.

Prepared families know where to go before danger arrives.

Review Your Tsunami Preparedness

Review your plan:

- ☐ Before traveling to coastal areas.
- ☐ Every six months.
- ☐ After moving to a new community.
- ☐ After changes in household members.

Preparedness is an ongoing commitment.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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Preparedness is a journey, not a one-time event. Every small step you take today helps protect the people you care about tomorrow.