

What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves which are sometimes generated at the same time as an earthquake occurs beneath the sea floor. Following an earthquake far away in the Pacific Ocean, it may take hours for waves to reach coastal British Columbia, and there is a *Tsunami Warning and Alerting Plan* in place to pass the warning to coastal residents as quickly as possible.

If you are near the ocean and you feel a large earthquake, you should go inland or to higher ground immediately. If a tsunami were to be generated close to British Columbia, waves could reach shore within a few minutes and there would not be enough time for officials to issue a warning.

BC Tsunami Advisory Bulletins

Warnings are in the form of **BC Tsunami Advisory Bulletins**, of five different types, briefly described here:

- **Tsunami Warning:** A tsunami exists (or *may* exist and the travel time to any portion of the BC coast is under three hours). Intended to cause recipients to consider activating local evacuation plans.
- **Tsunami Watch:** An earthquake has occurred which is capable of generating a tsunami and the travel time to any portion of the BC coast is more than three hours. Intended to cause emergency personnel to be on standby.
- **Tsunami Information:** *May* be issued to advise of a major earthquake in the Pacific region, where a damaging tsunami is not expected to reach BC.
- **Tsunami Cancellation:** Cancels all previous advisories; the threat of tsunami damage has ended.
- **Tsunami All Clear:** No further tsunami waves are expected and local authorities may issue their own “all clear”.

Port Alice Tsunami Emergency Plan

In Port Alice the “Tsunami Safe Zone” is above Marine Drive. In the case of a **Tsunami Warning**, residents below this line will be notified door to door and asked to meet at the Community Centre. If a **Tsunami Watch** is in effect, personal will be at the Village Office prepared to activate the emergency plan if and when necessary.

For more information on how to be prepared check out www.pep.bc.ca

