

Tsunami Key Messages

Preparedness messages:

Based on the risk posed by an earthquake, the Bureau of Meteorology issues Tsunami Watches, Tsunami Warnings and No Threat Bulletins.

- A **No Threat Bulletin** advises people that the earthquake has been assessed and that **no tsunami threat exists**
- A **Tsunami Watch** advises people that a tsunami threat **may exist** and that they should look out for further updates
- A **Tsunami Warning** advises people that a tsunami threat **does exist** and to advise them of the level of threat and action they should take

Tsunami watches and warnings are issued with three types of Threat Levels – no threat, land inundation threat and marine and immediate foreshore threat.

Be aware of Natural Warning Signs:

- A large undersea earthquake may be felt prior to tsunami by an ongoing shaking of the ground in coastal regions. However, you may not feel an earthquake if the source is far away
- You may see the ocean drop. As tsunami approach the shoreline, the sea level may, but not always recede/drop dramatically before returning as a fast-moving wall of water
- You may hear an unusual roaring sound from the ocean before the arrival of a tsunami

It is important to act early on warnings advice as Australia is lies adjacent to an active plate boundary capable of generating tsunami, which could reach our coastline within two to four hours.

	<p>About the ‘no threat’ level</p> <p>A no threat bulletin is issued if an undersea earthquake has been detected, however it has not generated a tsunami, or the tsunami poses no threat to Australia and its offshore territories.</p> <p>About the ‘marine and immediate foreshore threat’ level</p> <p>A warning with a marine and immediate foreshore threat level warns coastal communities including swimmers, fishermen and boaters of potentially dangerous waves, strong ocean currents and the possibility of overflow onto the immediate foreshore.</p> <p>Tsunami warnings with a marine and immediate foreshore threat level are more common than those with a land inundation threat.</p> <p>About the ‘land inundation threat’ level</p> <p>A Tsunami Warning with a land inundation threat level warns low-lying coastal areas of major land inundation, flooding, dangerous waves and strong ocean currents.</p> <p>Warnings with a land inundation threat are low frequency but have the potential to cause widespread damage and place lives at risk.</p>
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<p>Actions to take:</p>	<p>If a Tsunami Watch is issued:</p> <p>People in the affected areas should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • locate your emergency kit and add any medications, important papers, special items for babies, elderly, clothing, food and water • locate your emergency plan • keep listening to your local radio station for updates and advice
	<p>If a Tsunami Warning with a marine and immediate foreshore threat is issued:</p> <p>If a Tsunami Watch or Warning with a marine and immediate foreshore threat is issued people in the affected areas should take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get out of the water and move away from the immediate water's edge of harbours, coastal estuaries, rock platforms, and beaches • boats in harbours, estuaries and in shallow coastal water should return to shore. Secure your boat and move away from the waterfront • vessels already at sea should stay offshore in deep water until further advised • do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami • check that your neighbours have received this advice • keep listening to your local radio station for updates and advice • a Tsunami Watch Cancellation or Tsunami Warning Cancellation will be issued when the tsunami threat has passed
	<p>If a Tsunami Watch with land inundation threat is issued</p> <p>If a Tsunami Watch or Warning with a land inundation threat is issued people should take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • go to higher ground, at least ten metres above sea level, or if possible move at least one kilometre away from all beaches and the water's edge of harbours and coastal estuaries • take only essential items that you can carry including your emergency kit containing important papers, family photographs and medical needs • consider walking to safety if possible to avoid traffic jams • if you cannot leave the area take shelter in the upper storey of a sturdy brick or concrete multi-storey building • get out of the water and move away from the immediate water's edge of harbours, coastal estuaries, rock platforms, and beaches

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boats in harbours, estuaries and in shallow coastal water should return to shore. Secure your boat and move away from the waterfront • vessels already at sea should stay offshore in deep water until further advised • do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami • check that your neighbours have received this advice • keep listening to your local radio station for updates and advice • a Tsunami Watch Cancellation or Tsunami Warning Cancellation will be issued when the tsunami threat has passed
After:	<p>A Tsunami Watch Cancellation or Tsunami Warning Cancellation will be issued when the tsunami threat has passed.</p> <p>Do not return to the affected area until given the all clear by emergency services personnel.</p>