




How to prepare yourself



Some of the things you can do are:

- ✓ Prepare an emergency kit
- ✓ Know where the nearest high ground or Assembly Area  is located
- ✓ If you are a business or school keep your emergency plan up-to-date and practice it regularly
- ✓ If you live or work in the evacuation zone identify an evacuation route to the nearest high ground or Assembly Area  that you can reach by foot
- ✓ Know how to secure your property, how to turn off electricity and gas, how you will take your pets with you and what essential documents and emergency supplies you can easily carry
- ✓ Discuss your emergency plan with your family, neighbours and workmates and be prepared to act
- ✓ If you are visiting the island be aware of the Assembly Areas  and what to do in case there is a Tsunami Watch or Warning



**KEEP THIS GUIDE HANDY
AND REFER TO IT WHEN
YOU HEAR A WARNING.**

Warnings will be broadcast by VHF radio channel 12, by phone to businesses involved in marine activities, by fax to lodges and in person by emergency service personnel and volunteers to people in the foreshore areas.

Are you at risk?

Lord Howe Island can be significantly impacted by tsunami before other areas of the NSW coast. It is important to be prepared if there is a tsunami in this location.

This brochure can help you prepare for a tsunami and contains information about evacuation zones and assembly areas on the island.



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Principal Partner



**FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL**

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

**For the latest tsunami warnings call
1300 TSUNAMI (1300 878 6264)**

or visit: www.ses.nsw.gov.au

TsunamiSafe



Lord Howe Island



#NSWSES



/NSWSES



/NSWSES



When a Tsunami Warning is issued

Act early on warning advice as there can be a very short time frame between earthquakes, tsunami forming and tsunami warnings. Follow all advice given by the emergency services. Actions to take include:

Marine and immediate foreshore threat

- ✓ Get out of the water and move away from foreshore areas to the nearest Assembly Area (AA)
- ✓ Boats in the Lagoon should be returned to shore and securely moored. Move away from the waterfront to higher ground
- ✓ If your vessel is in deep water and offshore, stay there
- ⚠ Do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami
- ✓ Check that your neighbours know about the warning
- ✓ Keep listening to the radio for information, updates and advice

Land inundation threat

- ✓ Move away from foreshore areas and the Tsunami Evacuation Zone to higher ground, at least 10 metres above sea level or to the nearest Assembly Area (AA)
- ✓ When moving to higher ground take only essential items, such as important papers, family photographs and medication
- ✓ If you cannot get to higher ground seek shelter in the upper storey of a sturdy brick or concrete multi-storey building at least 10 metres above sea level
- ✓ Boats in the lagoon should be returned to shore and securely moored. Move away from the waterfront to an Assembly Area (AA)
- ⚠ Do not go to low-lying or foreshore areas to watch the tsunami
- ✓ Boats outside the lagoon area should move to deeper water. If your vessel is in deep water and offshore, stay there.

After a tsunami

- 👁 An **All Clear** will be issued when the tsunami threat has passed
- ⚠ **Do not return to the foreshore area until an All Clear notice has been given by emergency services**

What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of powerful waves, the first wave is not always the largest. Tsunami are often triggered by undersea earthquakes that cause massive changes to the ocean floor. Tsunami can also be caused by seismic events, landslides, or even asteroid impacts.

Tsunami Watches and Warnings

Tsunami Watches and Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.

A Tsunami Watch advises people that a tsunami threat **may exist** and that they should look out for further updates.

A Tsunami Warning advise people that a tsunami threat **does exist** and to advise them of the level of threat and action they should take.

- **No threat.** 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.
- **Marine and immediate foreshore threat.** Warning of potentially dangerous waves, strong ocean currents in the marine environment and the possibility of only some localised overflow onto the immediate foreshore.
- **Land inundation threat.** Warning for low-lying coastal areas of major land inundation, flooding, dangerous waves and strong ocean currents.

Natural warning signs

The following are natural signs of a tsunami to be aware of:

- 👁 Shaking of the ground may mean a large earthquake has happened nearby. This may generate a tsunami.
- 👁 As a tsunami approaches shorelines, the sea may, but not always, withdraw from the beach (like a very low and fast tide) before returning as a fast-moving tsunami.
- 👁 A roaring sound may be heard before the arrival of a tsunami.



Tsunami can occur as a series of multiple waves, the first wave is not always the largest. It is important to check that an All Clear has been issued before returning to foreshore areas



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WHERE CAN I FIND
MORE INFORMATION
ON TSUNAMI?

www.bom.gov.au/tsunami
www.ses.nsw.gov.au
www.em.gov.au