



Joint Information Center Press Release

11 March 2011
1130 hours

The Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services has declared that a local emergency now exists. In response to the tsunami warning issued for the coastal areas of California, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has enacted VOLUNTARY evacuations for the low-lying and coastal areas of Humboldt County and recommends residents in those areas move to higher ground and inland. The Red Cross has established an evacuation center at Redwood Acres' Turf Club.

Avoid unnecessary travel if you are already within a safe area. California Highway Patrol has closed US Highway 101 North of Orick at the 101 bypass, and south of Orick at Kane Road. Arcata Police Department has closed westbound Highway 255 at K St.

Listen to LOCAL TV, radio, and NOAA weather radio for further advisories and instructions. We are also recommending residents with access to a computer go to www.humboldt.edu/rctwg/ to see if their location is within the threatened areas.

Additional surges have hit Humboldt Bay with three higher than one foot. The warning is still in and may last up to 8 more hours. DO NOT go to "watch" the waves. Local law enforcement agencies are reporting significant drawdown in the water level in several coastal areas. Unusual wave actions are being seen at Woodley Island, Stone Lagoon, and the mouth of Mad River.

The first wave hit our coast at approximately 0730 hrs. in Shelter Cove with approximately three-foot waves. California Highway Patrol is reporting waves just under five feet high with confirmed damage to Crescent City/Commercial Fisheries and piers with waves still incoming and 35 boats reported damaged. Waves reportedly washed over Highway 101 at Freshwater, but has since receded with no reported damage.

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