



Joint Information Center Press Release

11 March 2011
0810 hrs.

In response to a tsunami warning issued for the coastal areas of California, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has enacted VOLUNTARY evacuations for the low lying areas of Humboldt County and recommends residents in those areas move to higher ground and inland. The Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services is advising this is now a declared disaster. Redwood Acres has been established as the evacuation center. Areas of concern include the Arcata Bottoms, the Samoa Peninsula, the North and South Spits, the Humboldt Bay lowlands area from Second Street to the bay and from Broadway to the bay, Indian Island and Woodley Island in Eureka, King Salmon, Fields Landing, the Loleta Bottoms, and the Ferndale area west of Dillon and Meridian Roads.

All City of Eureka, City of Arcata elementary school district, McKinleyville Elementary and Crescent City schools have been closed as well as the following Humboldt County schools: Orick, Freshwater, South Bay, and Garfield. College of the Redwoods is closed as well. PG & E has established rolling outages for the next 2 hours to lighten their power load.

The first wave hit our coast approximately 0730 hrs. in Shelter Cove with about 3 foot waves. The first wave may not be the only wave nor the highest, and wave action may last as long as 12 hours after the first wave. DO NOT go to "watch" the wave. Local law enforcement agencies are reporting significant drawdown in the water level in several coastal areas.

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.

Avoid unnecessary travel if you are already within a safe area. California Highway Patrol has closed US101 North of Orick at the 101 bypass, and south of Orick at Cane Road.