



MEDIA RELEASE

March 26, 2018

Are you ready for a tsunami? Monday, March 26 marks the beginning of Tsunami Preparedness Week on the North Coast. During this week, Humboldt County is taking the opportunity to practice our emergency alert procedures in the event of a tsunami generated from a distant earthquake.

On Wednesday, March 28 between 11 a.m. and noon, the National Weather Service (NWS) and Humboldt County will conduct a test of tsunami warning and communications systems. During this time, the Emergency Alert System will be activated. North Coast residents may see or hear test notifications broadcasted over the television and radio. Some residents may hear local tsunami sirens sound and observe the Civil Air Patrol flying along the coast with an audible message.

Registered Humboldt Alert users will receive a test notification during this time, in addition to listed landlines. Humboldt Alert is a voluntary emergency notification system. Registered users are able to receive notifications of public health threats, dangerous weather, safety incidents and other emergencies by landline, email and/or cell phone. To receive this free service, register at the [Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services website](#).

Tsunami Preparedness Week is a great time to prepare your household for emergencies. Reviews tsunami maps from the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group to familiarize yourself with tsunami zones where you live, work, play, and travel [on their website](#) or via the [Humboldt County Tsunami Evacuation Zones App](#). Talk to your family about your evacuation plans, emergency communications and how you will reunite if you are separated during a local disaster.

NATURAL WARNING VS OFFICIAL WARNING

A Tsunami Warning is the highest level of tsunami alert and is only issued when flooding of land that is usually dry is expected. Tsunami Warnings are focused on a tsunami coming from far away. If you hear that an official Tsunami Warning has been issued, move away from the beach and out of harbor areas. Tune into local radio or television stations for more information and follow the evacuation directions of local authorities.

If a strong earthquake occurs close to our coast that lasts for 20 seconds or longer, a tsunami may follow. In this case, there will be no time for an official warning to be issued. You must rely on recognizing the natural warning signs of a tsunami. An earthquake is the most likely natural warning sign that a tsunami is coming. Other natural warning signs include the ocean water drawing back and exposing the sea floor, or hearing a loud roar from the coast. If you are in a tsunami evacuation zone and observe any of these warnings, move to higher ground or inland on foot as soon as possible. There may be as little as 10 minutes between the earthquake and a tsunami. Remember that surges may continue to arrive for 24 hours or longer.

For more information about tsunami preparedness visit the [National Tsunami Warning Center website](#).

HELPFUL LINKS

Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services website: <http://humboldtgov.org/OES>

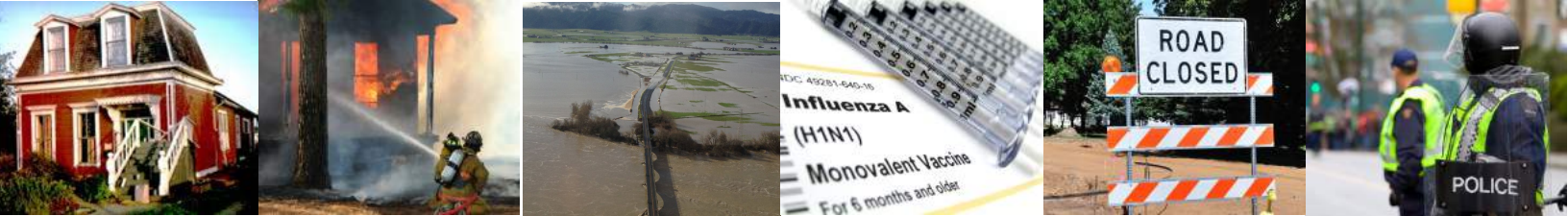
Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group Website: http://www2.humboldt.edu/rctwg/site/download_tsunami_maps/

Humboldt County Tsunami Evacuation Zones Map App: <http://humboldtgov.org/TsunamiApp>

National Tsunami Warning Center website: <https://tsunami.gov/>



HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM **Humboldt ALERT**



The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services wants you to be safe and informed during emergencies in your area — including public health threats, dangerous weather, and safety incidents. Register now to be notified by land line, email, and/or cell phone about local disasters, hazards, and emergencies for free!

REMEMBER, WE CAN'T ALERT YOU IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU.



Register at:

humboldtgov.org/alerts

OR scan the QR Code on your
phone!



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Please contact the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services if you have any questions, at 707-268-2500, or by email at OES@co.humboldt.ca.us.

TSUNAMI COMMUNICATIONS TEST



**Wednesday
March 28, 2018**

**between
11 a.m. & noon**

Humboldt County

Know Your Zone!

Review tsunami maps from
Redwood Coast Tsunami
Work Group at
[www2.humboldt.edu/rctwg/
site/download_tsunami_maps/](http://www2.humboldt.edu/rctwg/site/download_tsunami_maps/)

**Prepare your household
for emergencies.** Talk to
your family about your
evacuation, emergency
communication, and
reunification plan.

What to expect:

Activation of the Emergency Alert System

TV and radio may be interrupted with a test
message.

Some tsunami sirens will be activated and
may sound twice between 11 and 11:30 a.m.

Civil Air Patrol will be flying along the coast
with an audible message, weather permitting.

NOAA weather radios will broadcast the test
message.

Registered Humboldt Alert users will receive
a test notification. Sign up today at
www.humboldtgov.org/alerts.



**Humboldt County Sheriff's
Office of Emergency Services**

TSUNAMI FAQs

get prepared in Humboldt County

Q Where are tsunami zones in Humboldt County?

A View the maps produced by the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group: www2.humboldt.edu/rctwg/site/download_tsunami_maps/. Street level tsunami zone maps are available here, accessible by smart phone or online: www.arcgis.com/webapp/viewer.html?appid=2q9U50p

Q How can I be warned of potential tsunami threats to Humboldt County?

A There are two ways you will learn that a tsunami may be on its way:

Natural Warning

If you feel an earthquake that lasts a long time, this is nature's warning that a tsunami may be arriving in as soon as 10 minutes. Evacuate on foot to higher ground or inland immediately.

Official Warning

- Subscribe to receive text messages from the National Tsunami Warning Center by texting "Follow NWS_NTWC" to 40404.
- Register with **Humboldt Alert** to receive notifications of hazardous conditions in the county for emergencies affecting areas that you register (home, work, your child's school).
- If a Tsunami Warning is issued for Humboldt, or is expected to be issued, all cell phones with emergency notifications enabled receive a Wireless Emergency Alert, similar to an Amber Alert.

Q Will I hear a siren any time there is a tsunami threat to Humboldt?

A No. Tsunami sirens are intended to warn that a tsunami is coming from far away, such as Alaska or Japan. However, tsunami sirens won't be audible in all tsunami zones. If there is a strong local earthquake lasting longer than 20 seconds, that is your natural warning to evacuate to higher ground or inland within 10 minutes. Warning systems and phones may be impacted by a local earthquake and unable to issue warnings.

Q What is the chance of a tsunami striking the coast in Humboldt County?

A Humboldt County is at risk of tsunamis from large earthquakes generated locally and from elsewhere in the Pacific. Earthquakes can happen at any time and cannot be predicted in advance.

Q How can I stay safe during a tsunami?

A The most important way to stay safe is to recognize the natural signs that a tsunami may be coming and to know if where you live, work or play is in a tsunami zone.

- Practice how to evacuate with your family and make sure you store a grab-and-go emergency kit by your door.

- Familiarize yourself with local tsunami zones ahead of time.

- Register to get notifications from the National Tsunami Warning Center and Humboldt County.

- In the event of a Tsunami Warning for Humboldt County, stay out of tsunami zones until the warning is canceled. Surges may continue to arrive for 24 hours or longer.

- Help others by staying off the roads during evacuations if you are not in an identified evacuation zone. Leave 911 lines open for those in need of emergency assistance.

- Ensure that you are passing along only verified information directly from local authorities, the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group, National Tsunami Warning Center or NWS. www.weather.gov/eka/



www.TsunamiZone.org
www.HumboldtGov.org/Alerts



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