



**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Public Information Office**

03/19/2021

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*Media Advisory*

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1300 Hrs.

For Immediate Release PST  
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**San Francisco Fire Department is participating in Tsunami Awareness Week 2021**

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California is subject to a tsunami at any time, whether locally generated or distant. A tsunami is a series of waves that may last for hours, even days, and are typically caused by undersea earthquakes.

The last major tsunami to impact California was from the 2011 9.0-magnitude Tohoku (Japan) earthquake, which caused more than \$100 million in damage along the California coast, with waves arriving for more than 24 hours.

Fortunately, we can prepare to survive and recover from the next major tsunami. This year, California's [Tsunami Preparedness](#) Week is March 22-26. Everyone, everywhere in California, is encouraged to [register their participation](#), get to [know their zone](#), and [spread the word](#).

San Francisco Firefighters following COVID guidelines will be walking the Tsunami Routes in San Francisco, handing out informational brochures, and speaking with the public that we encounter during Tsunami Awareness Week (April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26, 2021). We encourage you to check the following sites out and become prepared as well:

1. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/california/>
2. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/knownyourzone/>
3. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/graphics/>
4. <https://www.sf72.org/hazard/tsunamis>
5. <https://sfdem.org/public-alerts-0>
6. <https://nextdoor.com/agency-post/ca/san-francisco/san-francisco-department-of-emergency-management/tsunami-preparedness-101-10266691/>
7. <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Pages/Tsunami/Maps/SanFrancisco.aspx>

Feel free to print and share the below PDF safety material:



Tsunami Safety.pdf

For more information, contact Lt. Jonathan Baxter at [firepio@sfgov.org](mailto:firepio@sfgov.org)



## Two ways to know if a Tsunami is coming

### Natural Warning

If you observe the following warning signs, a tsunami may be coming:

1. Strong ground shaking
2. A loud ocean roar
3. Water receding unusually far exposing the sea floor

A tsunami may arrive within minutes and may last for several hours. Stay away from coastal areas until officials say that it is safe to return.

### Official Warning

You may be informed by officials of a tsunami warning by:

- Radio
- National Weather Service
- Television
- Telephone/Cell phone/Text
- Door-to-Door contact
- Outdoor Sirens

Follow directions provided by emergency personnel. You may be asked to leave the beach and low-lying coastal areas.

Consider now text messaging "alerts" to 888-777 for tsunami warnings, flooding and Citywide post-disaster information; or go to [www.SF72.org](http://www.SF72.org) for more information on disaster preparedness.

# Tsunami Safety Tips

## A Tsunami can strike at anytime. Are you prepared to survive a Tsunami?



### Evacuation

Before evacuating you should know if you are in a hazard zone and consider possible hazards that may exist along your evacuation route.

1. Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
2. **COUNT** how long the earthquake lasts. If you feel more than 20 seconds of very strong shaking and are in a tsunami hazard zone, evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.
3. If you are on the beach or in a harbor and feel an earthquake, no matter how small, immediately move inland or to high ground.
4. **GO ON FOOT** as roads and bridges may be damaged.
5. Avoid downed power lines.
6. If evacuation is impossible, go to the third floor or higher floor of a sturdy building or climb a tree. This should only be used as a last resort.



The steps you take to prepare will help you during the recovery process

- Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
- Learn your recommended tsunami evacuation route and practice it.
- Make a plan that includes all family members, and pets, and practice it.
- Identify safety zones near you.
- Get a weather radio that can alert you when you are in a Tsunami zone, even if it's turned off.

Prepare an evacuation kit that includes:

- Important documents
- Medications
- Portable radio/Weather Service radio with batteries
- Water and snacks
- Rescue blankets
- Decide where to meet if you become separated
- Designate an out of state relative to call after a disaster for re-unification
- Plan to bring pet food and supplies