

# HOW TO SURVIVE A TSUNAMI

## WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A tsunami is a series of waves caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. As a tsunami enters shallow water near land, its height increases. A tsunami can cause great loss of life and property damage as it inundates upland areas adjacent to the shoreline.

The Oregon coast is subject to tsunamis. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has prepared maps that indicate which areas of Cannon Beach could be inundated from both a local tsunami and a distant tsunami.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LOCAL TSUNAMI AND A DISTANT TSUNAMI?

A local tsunami is generated by a strong earthquake located off the coast of Oregon. A local tsunami can come ashore within 15 to 20 minutes after the earthquake. Your only warning may be feeling the ground shake or move. Evacuate as quickly as possible **on foot** after the ground shaking stops.

A distant tsunami is generated by an earthquake far from Oregon, such as in Alaska or Japan. It will not reach the Oregon coast for several hours. There is time for the City to issue an evacuation warning. Evacuate in a timely manner after the warning is issued.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF FROM A TSUNAMI?

- Develop a household evacuation plan. Everyone in your household needs to know what to do on their own to protect themselves in case of a tsunami. Decide when and where you will meet if you are separated from your family.
- Create an emergency supply kit (Go Bag) that can easily be taken with you at a moment's notice. The kit should contain such items as food, water, medical supplies, toiletries, and flash light.

## WHERE DO I EVACUATE TO?

- Use the Tsunami Evacuation Pedestrian Route map to develop your route. Plan a route that takes you to the closest Assembly Area, or to an area inland of the yellow line on the map. Plan on taking no more than 15 to 20 minutes to reach your target destination. For a distant tsunami you need to evacuate to an area inland of the orange line on the map.
- Practice your route on foot. Take your emergency supply kit with you.
- If you are unable to reach a safe area, go inland to an area that is as high as possible. Not all tsunamis will inundate areas as far inland as those shown on the maps.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO EVACUATE?

- If you feel the ground shake, evacuate inland to high ground immediately after the earthquake has stopped.
- In the event of a distant tsunami, you will receive an evacuation warning from the City

## DO NOT LEAVE YOUR ASSEMBLY AREA UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE EMERGENCY IS OVER

- Tsunami waves may be spaced many hours apart and continue to arrive for many hours. The first tsunami wave is often not the largest.
- Emergency personnel will announce the all clear when it is safe to leave the assembly area.

**Protect Yourself During the Earthquake  
Move to High Ground as Soon as Possible  
Stay There**

