

Coastal Alaska is Tsunami Country

• Safety is Priority #1

Whether coastal Alaska is your home, workplace, or a travel destination, it is important to know how to stay safe in the event of a tsunami.

• Be Aware



- ✓ Do you see signs for a tsunami evacuation route? It might look something like this.
- ✓ Are you aware of guidance provided by local authorities? Seek that out.

• Location, Location, Location

The best protective action to take is determined by your location and the types of event(s) that can trigger a tsunami in that location.

Fjord Communities

There is a higher potential for a **local tsunami** in fjord communities (such as **Seward, Whittier, Valdez, Homer**, and others). There, earthquake-triggered landslides can disturb coastline waters and cause a tsunami.

In Alaskan fjord communities ...

THE STRONG* SHAKING YOU FEEL IS YOUR TSUNAMI WARNING!



Go to high ground or inland immediately!



Stay there until local officials say it's safe to return.

Local tsunami waves may be large and arrive in minutes.

*To learn more about "strong" shaking, visit earthquake.alaska.edu

earthscope.org/shakealert
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Understanding Tsunamis

A tsunami is a **series** of ocean waves triggered by:

- Underwater or above-ground landslides
- Large earthquakes that occur near or under the ocean
- Volcanic eruptions.

Tsunami waves resemble a fast-rising tide that can extend far inland and have recurring waves that persist for many hours. The first waves may not be the largest.

Distant tsunamis are often generated by seafloor uplift during very large earthquakes. These tsunamis have the potential to cross the entire Pacific Ocean, impacting communities very far from the earthquake, including those in Alaska.

Local tsunamis occur when landslides disturb the water close to the coastline. Local tsunami waves may be very large and reach coastal communities within minutes.

Alaskan fjords can experience both distant and local (landslide) tsunamis.

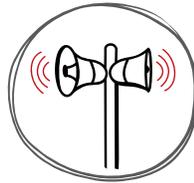
Tsunamis in Fjord Communities

Fjords are deep water inlets within steep-sided valleys that were created by glaciers. Rivers continue to carry lots of glacial sediment into fjords, leaving unstable deposits both above and below the water. This creates the potential for landslides and resulting local tsunamis in fjord communities.

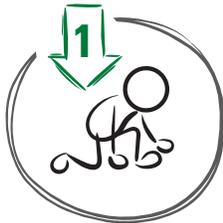
Coastal Communities Exposed to the Pacific Ocean

Kodiak, Yakutat, Sand Point, Kenai, and other coastal communities exposed to the Pacific Ocean have a potential to experience a distant tsunami. Waves may take tens of minutes to hours to arrive, depending on the distance to the source. Tsunami alerts/warnings will be issued by state and local authorities.

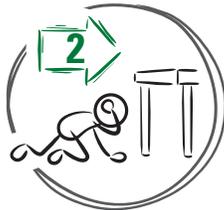
In Alaskan coastal communities exposed to the Pacific Ocean ...



If you **FEEL SHAKING** or **GET AN ALERT** ...



DROP!

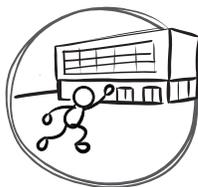


COVER!

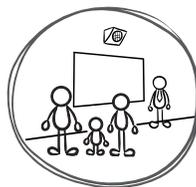


HOLD ON!

IF ADVISED, FOLLOW LOCAL GUIDANCE TO ...



Go to a safe zone or designated evacuation site.



Stay there until local officials say it's safe to return.

Large waves can occur in minutes and last for hours.

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Always Follow Official Tsunami Safety Guidance

Tsunami alerts/warnings will be issued by state and local authorities. Always follow official guidance, and stay away/move away from coastal waters in the event of an earthquake or tsunami.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TSUNAMIS AND SAFETY

Preparing for Tsunamis

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.ready.alaska.gov

Tsunami Information

Alaska Earthquake Center
www.earthquake.alaska.edu

Tsunami Warning Information

National Tsunami Warning Center
www.tsunami.gov

Geohazard Information and Research

EarthScope Consortium
www.earthscope.org

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