



# Tsunami Safety Rules

Tsunamis are the so-called “tidal waves” generated by some earthquakes. When you hear a tsunami warning, you **must** assume a dangerous wave is on its way. History shows that when great waves finally strike, they claim those who have ignored the warning.

1. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. When you feel an earthquake or hear that an earthquake has occurred, listen to the radio for a tsunami warning. If you are on the beach, go inland to higher ground.
2. An earthquake in your area is a natural tsunami warning. ***Leave the beach and low-lying coastal areas immediately if you feel an earthquake.***
3. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves. Time between these great waves can be as long as 45 minutes from one wave to the next. Stay out of danger areas until the Huntington Beach Police, Fire and/or Marine Safety Officers issue an “all-clear”.
4. Approaching tsunamis are sometimes heralded by a noticeable rise or fall of coastal water. This is nature’s tsunami warning and should be heeded.
5. A small tsunami at one beach can be a giant wave a few miles away. Don’t let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
6. The Tsunami Warning System does not issue false alarms. When an ocean-wide warning is issued, a tsunami exists. When a regional warning is issued, a tsunami probably exists.
7. All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.
8. ***Never*** go down to the beach to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave you may be too close to escape it. If you hear a Tsunami Warning, make sure your teenagers don’t go to the beach. Often times they believe they can surf the large waves. They must be educated to the fact that these waves can be deadly!
9. Sooner or later, tsunamis visit every coastline in the Pacific. Warnings apply to *you* if you live in any Pacific coastal area.
10. During a tsunami emergency, the Huntington Beach Police, Fire, and Marine Safety Officers will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation and follow all emergency responders’ orders.
11. In Huntington Beach, we have a warning siren system located at seven fire stations. The siren is tested the last Friday of each month, at noon. When you hear the siren activate at any other time, turn on your AM/FM radio to listen for emergency information.
12. For more information on tsunamis, go to [www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov) or [www.surfcity-hb.org/citydepartments/fire](http://www.surfcity-hb.org/citydepartments/fire).

Stay tuned to your AM/FM radio or television stations during a tsunami emergency—bulletins issued through the Huntington Beach Emergency Services Office and National Weather Service can help save your life!