



ALBERNI VALLEY TSUNAMI



In the Alberni Valley, a significant earthquake will likely be followed by a Tsunami. The impact of this natural disaster will be significant and help may take days or longer to come. **BE PREPARED!**

HOW WILL I KNOW A TSUNAMI IS ON ITS WAY?

A SIGNIFICANT LOCAL EARTHQUAKE

A significant local earthquake lasts longer than 20 seconds, is difficult to stand during, and within minutes may be followed by a tsunami in the Alberni Valley.

What to do:

- DROP, COVER & HOLD-ON during the earthquake
- **Following the earthquake, immediately move to higher ground** if you are in a low lying area – the following locations are all 20 meters (about 66 feet) or more above sea level:
 - Above the tracks on Johnston Rd
 - Top of Watty's Hill
 - Falls Rd at Lugin Rd
 - Golden St above Nelson Rd
 - Above the tracks on Roger St
 - Redford St and 5th Ave
 - Argyle St and 2nd Ave
 - Kitsuksis Rd above Neill Middle School

DO NOT wait for an official warning – there may be no time for officials to issue warnings

DO NOT pack (have your grab-and-go bag ready as part of your emergency plan)

DO NOT go to the beach to watch - tsunamis move faster than you can run (well over 970 kph (600 mph) in the open ocean - as fast as a jet flies)

TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM

The City of Port Alberni has a sophisticated tsunami warning system consisting of a network of radio controlled public address speakers located at four sites at the edge of the inundation zone. In the event of a distant earthquake with the potential to cause a tsunami, the Alberni Valley Emergency Program will be notified within minutes by the Provincial Emergency Program. This notification will activate the Emergency Plan and the tsunami warning sirens will sound a three-minute alarm followed by instructions to immediately evacuate to higher ground.

SUDDEN CHANGES IN SEA LEVEL

If you are not able to hear evacuation announcements and the tsunami was not triggered by a local earthquake - a sudden rise or fall in sea level or a loud, roaring sound (like an airplane or a train) coming from the ocean may be the first signs of danger.

What to do:

- Immediately move to higher ground
- **DO NOT** wait for an official warning
- **DO NOT** go to the beach to watch - tsunamis move faster than you can run (well over 970 kph (600 mph) in the open ocean - as fast as a jet flies)

More Information



If you are 20 meters above sea level, stay where you are. If you are in the inundation zone, follow an identified route to higher ground. (Unsure? – see a copy of the inundation zone map at www.acrd.bc.ca or pick up a copy at the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District office or City Hall)

HOW DO I HELP?

- Prepare.** An emergency plan with your family and neighbours and review it regularly
- Think.** About hazards where you live, work and play and how to travel to closest safe area
- Gather.** Emergency supplies (NOW! before there is an emergency)
- Educate.** Yourself on emergency preparedness, first aid and outdoor survival skills

Further information at:

- www.embc.gov.bc.ca - Provincial Emergency Program / Emergency Management BC
- www.acrd.bc.ca – Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- www.portalberni.ca – City of Port Alberni
- www.publicsafety.gc.ca - Public Safety Canada
- www.getprepared.gc.ca - Government of Canada
- www.hc-sc.gc.ca - Health Canada
- www.tsunami.noaa.gov National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
- www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca Emergency Information

HOW DO I GET ACCURATE INFORMATION?

During an emergency, accurate, local information may be obtained from the above agencies and:

- Local radio 93.3 the Peak
- Twitter: @emergencyinfobc
- Alberni Online: www.alberni.ca
- Twitter: @cityportalberni
- Facebook: Port Alberni Fire Department
- Facebook: City of Port Alberni Local Government

TSUNAMI WATCH, ADVISORY & WARNING?

| Tsunami Notification | Meaning | How does local government respond? | How will I know? |
|--|--|--|---|
| WATCH Wait for more information | Watches are issued when early seismic information indicates that an area could be impacted if a tsunami has been generated | The Alberni Valley Emergency program monitors the situation and waits for further information | Personal investigation through news and internet |
| ADVISORY Stay above high tide line | “The second highest level of tsunami alert. Advisories are issued due to the threat of a tsunami that has the potential to produce strong currents dangerous to those in or near the water (EMBC website)” | Course of action may include one or all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of public waterfront including beaches and marinas • Notification of the Port Authority and local industries on the water • Community safety announcements | Personal investigation through news and internet. Lowest lying properties, depending on the tsunami activity predicted, may receive notification from municipal officials – e.g. fire department, RCMP, public works |
| WARNING Move to higher ground and stay there | “This is the highest and most serious level of tsunami notification. Warnings are issued when there is imminent threat of a tsunami or confirmation of a tsunami wave (EMBC website)” | Immediate activation of the Tsunami Warning System Full activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and implementation of the emergency evacuation plan | Large local earthquake – the earthquake will be your notice. For off shore generated tsunami warnings, notification will be the warning siren, and may include media and door to door announcements |

For more information contact the Alberni Clayoquot Regional
District Emergency Planning Coordinator - 250-720-2529