What You Can Do Before the Next Tsunami:

**BE PREPARED**

- Know the best evacuation route — practice walking your route at night and in stormy weather
- Keep a "grab and go" kit by the door with what you need to survive for a day
- Discuss emergency plans with family, coworkers and neighbors
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio at home and at work
- Consider how to evacuate pets — such as dogs on leashes and cats in crates
- Prearrange assistance from neighbors if you need help evacuating

Questions or want more information?

Mendocino Co. Sheriff’s Office (707) 463-4411
American Red Cross (707) 577-7600
National Weather Service (707) 443-6484
HSU Geology Department (707) 826-3931
NOAA National Weather Service Tsunami tsunami.gov
Living on Shaky Ground humboldt.edu/shakyground
Cal EMA My Hazards myhazards.calema.ca.gov
Great California ShakeOut shakeout.org

U.S. Geological Survey earthquake.usgs.gov/prepare
California Geological Survey consrv.ca.gov/cgs/geologic_hazards

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What is a Tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of water surges usually caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor.

**TSUNAMIS CAN TRICK YOU!**

- The first surge is not the largest.
- It is not unusual for tsunami surges to last at least 12 hours and in some cases much longer.
- Just when you think it is all over, another very large surge may come.

What areas are at risk?

The beach, harbors, the bay, and river mouths are at greatest risk. If you are in or near the yellow zone on the map (inside), you should leave after feeling an earthquake that lasts a long time. Outside of this area, stay where you are.

How do I know if an earthquake is big enough to cause a tsunami?

- If you are on the beach and feel an earthquake, no matter how small, move inland or to high ground immediately.
- In other low-lying areas, COUNT how long the earthquake lasts. If you count 20 seconds or more of ground shaking and are located in a tsunami hazard zone, evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.
- GO ON FOOT. Roads and bridges may be damaged by strong ground shaking. Avoid downed power lines — some may retain a charge even when they are on the ground. If evacuation is impossible, go to the upper floor of a sturdy building or climb a tree — but only as a last resort.

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2004—THAILAND When the water rushed in, it looked like a river in flood.

Two Ways to Know if a Tsunami is Coming:

**Natural Warnings**

GROUND SHAKING, a LOUD OCEAN ROAR, or the WATER RECEDING UNUSUALLY FAR exposing the sea floor are all nature’s warnings that a tsunami may be coming. If you observe any of these warning signs, immediately walk to higher ground or inland. A tsunami may arrive within minutes and damaging surges are likely to occur for at least 12 hours and possibly longer. Stay away from coastal areas until officials permit you to return.

**Official Warnings**

You may be notified that a Tsunami Warning has been issued via TV, radio stations, door-to-door contact by emergency responders, NOAA weather radios, or in some cases, by outdoor sirens and announcements from airplanes. Move away from the beach and seek more information without using a phone. Tune into local radio or television stations for more information. Follow the directions of emergency personnel who may ask you to evacuate low-lying coastal areas.

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2011—JAPAN In Kesennuma, cars and other debris were swept away by tsunami waves.
How to be tsunami safe:

Locate where you live, work, and play. If you are in the yellow area, evacuate by foot immediately after feeling an earthquake that lasts 20 seconds or longer. Use this map to plan a safe evacuation route. Practice evacuating so that you and your family know what to do during a real tsunami. Remember — GO ON FOOT. Roads are likely to be impassable.

Entering and Leaving Tsunami Zone signs are placed on roads near the edge of the yellow inundation zone. Take note of where these signs are located. If a large earthquake occurs, return at least as far as this point to be in a safe area. If you cannot reach this point, go as far as or as high as you can. Every foot inland or upwards can make a difference.

If there are no signs posted, head to an area 100 feet above sea level. This number is overly conservative and should be used as a guideline only when you have no signs to guide you.

Other beach hazards:

Large sneaker waves can wash over rocks and far up beaches without warning, even after twenty or more minutes of small waves. Don’t be fooled by an ocean that looks calm — stay back from the surf and never turn your back on the ocean.

Rising tides can cut off your return route or force you to walk dangerously close to the surf. Know the tides and plan for rising water.

SAMOA, CA—Residents practice tsunami evacuation in an annual drill.

This map is to help you protect yourself from the biggest tsunami likely to hit our area, a great tsunami from Alaska, or a tsunami caused by an earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone. The map was developed by Humboldt State University and is based on numerical modeling by the California Geological Survey. It uses the best currently available data and may be changed or updated as additional scientific information becomes available. It includes no information about the probability of a tsunami hitting our area and does not reflect how an actual tsunami may impact the region. It is intended to support tsunami evacuation planning and should not be used for any other purposes.