

Living on

SHAKY GROUND

HOW TO SURVIVE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Tsunamis are Tricky

DON'T RELY ON YOUR PAST EXPERIENCE

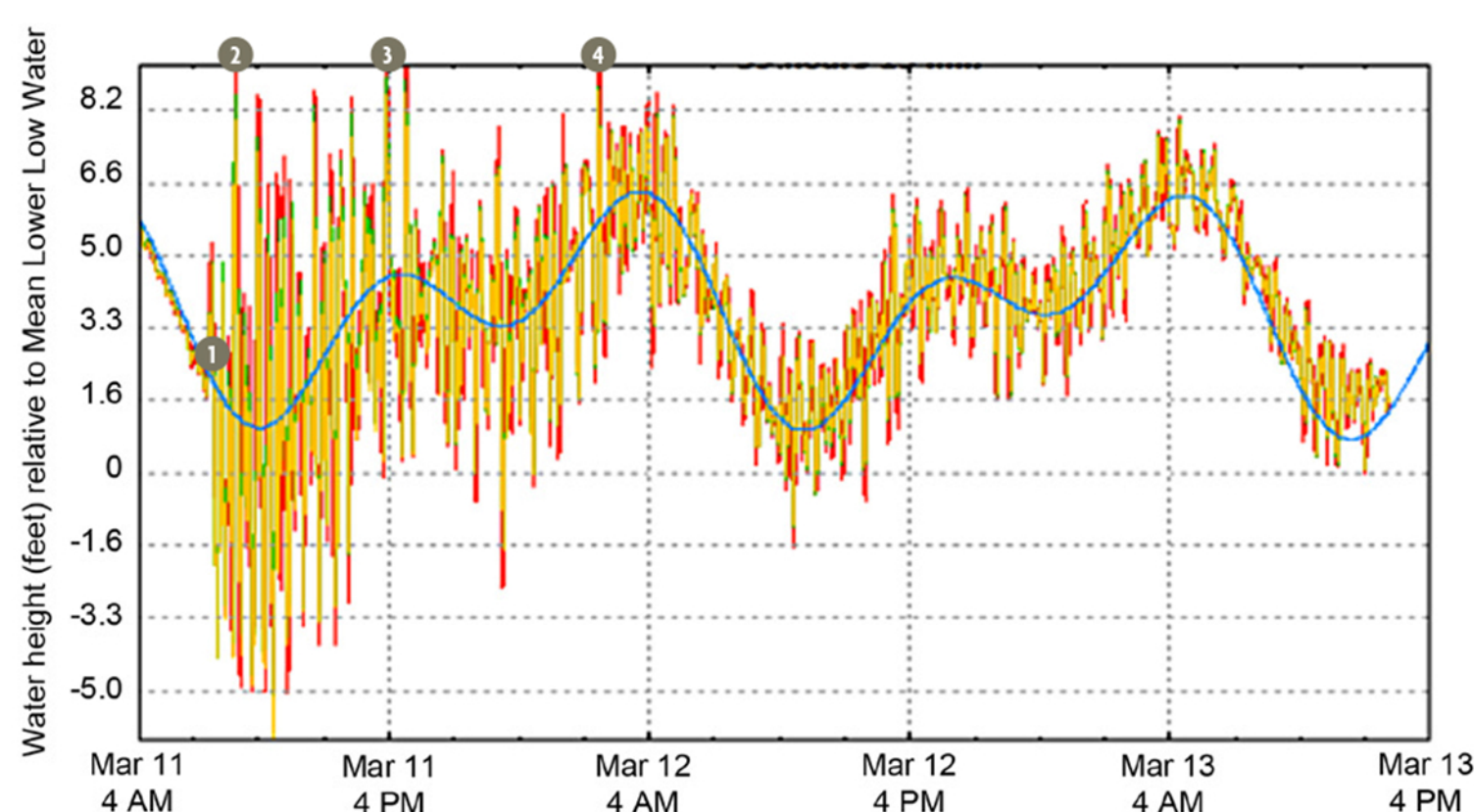
TSUNAMIS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL OCEAN WAVES

- Surges may attack from unexpected directions.
- A tsunami may look small from a distance, but by the time you realize how big it is, you might not be able to reach high ground.
- The water moves much faster than it appears. You can't out run it.
- Tsunamis penetrate far onto the shore and can travel miles up coastal rivers.
- You can't surf tsunamis. There is no curling wave or face to surf.
- Even strong swimmers can't survive a tsunami.
- The next tsunami will be different from the last.

JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT IS ALL OVER, A BIGGER SURGE MAY ARRIVE

- First surges are often small; the largest surges may arrive many hours after the first.
- The danger can last a day or longer.
- The water is dangerous even after the tsunami is over – debris and hazardous materials may lurk in the depths.

STAY AWAY FROM THE COAST UNTIL OFFICIALS SAY IT IS SAFE TO RETURN.



Water level recording from the Crescent City Tide gauge during the Japan tsunami. The blue line is the tidal fluctuation and the yellow/red line shows the actual water height relative to the average low tide height.

- 1 The first tsunami surge arrived in Crescent City at 7:30 am on March 11.
- 2 During the strongest surge around 10 am, the water level fluctuated from 5 feet below mean low tide, to over 8 feet above it. Fortunately, these strongest surges arrived at low tide.
- 3 When the high tide arrived around 4 pm, the tsunami was 5 feet high.
- 4 The absolute highest water occurred at 2 am on March 12, just before the high tide arrived. The tsunami was only about 4 feet, but it was on top of a 6.5 foot high tide. The tsunami surges continued for over 6 days.

