

Living on

SHAKY GROUND

HOW TO SURVIVE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

What Every Northern Californian Should Know About Tsunamis

Damaging tsunamis are not as rare as you might think. In the past 70 years:

- 44 tsunamis have been recorded on the North Coast
- Five caused damage

Tsunami Facts

- Tsunamis may look like sloping mountains of water or a river in flood, usually choked with debris.
- A tsunami always consists of many waves or surges spaced minutes to more than an hour apart.
- The first surge is not the largest. The most damaging surges may arrive hours after the first and hazardous waves may arrive for eight hours or longer.



1946-HAWAII The tsunami surge approaching Coconut Island in Hilo, Hawaii looked like a sloping mountain of water.

2004-INDONESIA In Banda Aceh the water was choked with debris.

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

2004-THAILAND In Phuket, the tsunami began as a withdrawal of the ocean water that exposed hundreds of feet of the sea floor.

