What Every Northern Californian Should Know About Tsunamis

Damaging tsunamis are not as rare as you might think. In the last century:

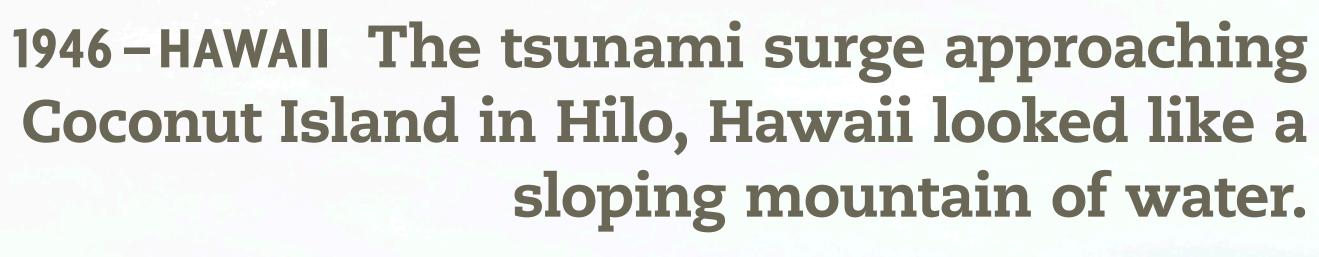
- More than forty tsunamis have been observed on the North Coast.
- Five caused damage.

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. Surges may continue to arrive at irregular intervals for many hours or days.
- The first surge is not the largest. The most damaging surges may arrive many hours after the first.







2011-JAPAN 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.

