

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 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.



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

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

2011 – JAPAN The water was choked with debris.

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

