

# WHAT TO DO?

## TSUNAMI SAFETY RULES FOR HAWAII



1. A tsunami is a series of dangerous waves carrying a massive volume of water that can inundate miles inland for hours. If you are near the ocean and feel the earth shake, immediately protect yourself from falling objects if indoors: **DROP, COVER and HOLD**. Following the earthquake, move immediately to higher ground. **DO NOT** wait for a tsunami warning to be issued.
2. If a tsunami **WATCH** is issued, there is potential that a tsunami will occur. Stand by for emergency information. Check the phone books to see if you are in a tsunami evacuation zone.
3. If a tsunami **ADVISORY** is issued, expect strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or near the water. Significant land flooding is not expected. Move away from beaches. Evacuate harbors/marinas and deploy boats to deep water, if there is time.
4. If a tsunami **WARNING** is issued, expect significant land flooding. When an evacuation is necessary, sirens will sound. Immediately evacuate inland to higher ground, if you are in a tsunami evacuation zone. Otherwise, stay put and do not contribute to traffic congestion.
5. Turn on your radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency information. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by County Civil Defense/Emergency Management Agency.
6. Never go down to the shore to view a tsunami. When you can see the wave, you are too close to outrun it. Tsunami waves typically do not curl and break - do not try to surf a tsunami.
7. All warnings must be taken very seriously. The May 1960 tsunami killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawai'i because some thought it was a false warning.

For Hawai'i information, visit [www.hawaiiitsunami.org](http://www.hawaiiitsunami.org)



Pacific Tsunami Warning Center  
Web: <https://tsunami.gov>



International Tsunami Information Center  
A UNESCO/IOC - NOAA Partnership  
E-mail: [itic.tsunami@noaa.gov](mailto:itic.tsunami@noaa.gov)  
Web: <http://www.tsunamiwave.org>