

Appendix 2: Tsunami Alerting Checklist

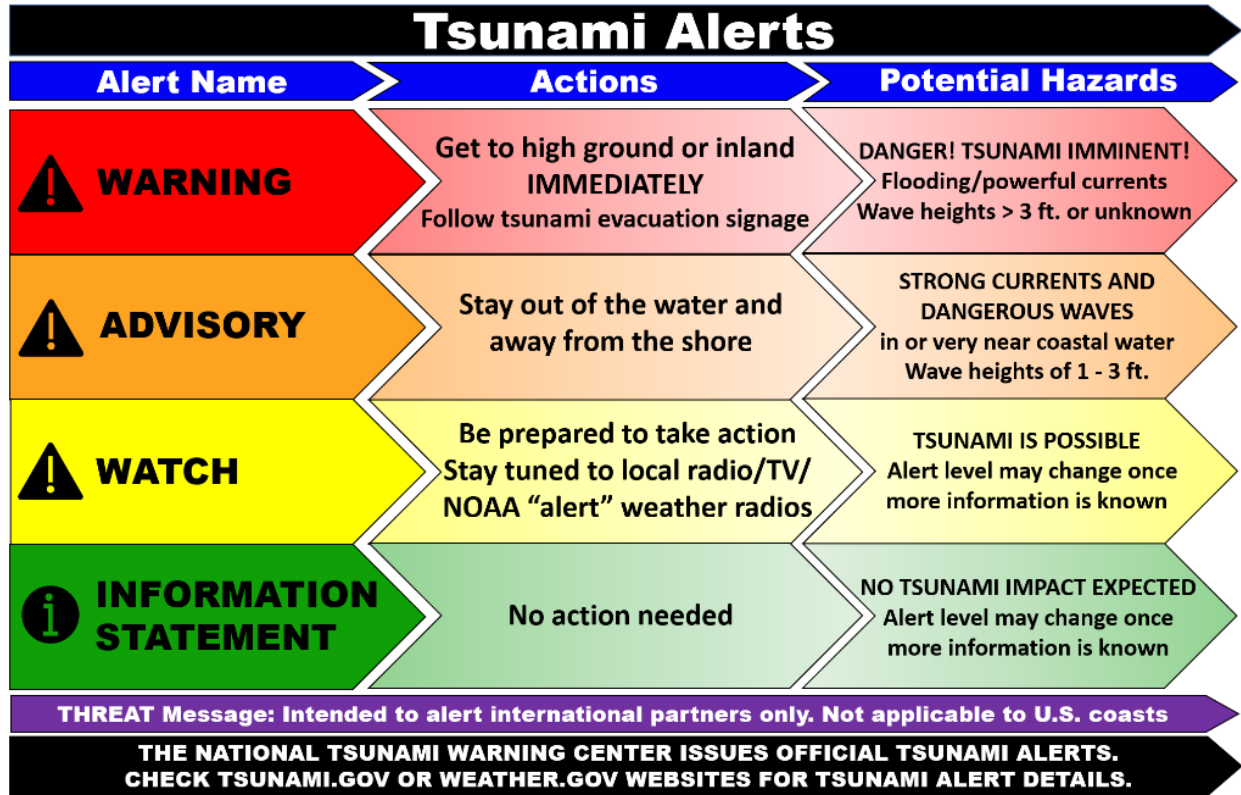


Figure 1: Official tsunami alerts, protective actions to take, and potential hazards associated with alert levels.

National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) issues tsunami Warnings, Advisories, Watches, and Information Statements. Each has a distinct set of conditions and responses relating to local emergency response. In summary:

Warning	→	Inundating wave possible	→	Full Evacuation Suggested
Advisory	→	Strong currents likely	→	Stay away from the shore
Watch	→	Danger level not yet known	→	Get ready to take action
Information	→	Minor waves at most	→	No action suggested

Table 1: Official tsunami alerts, associated effects, and protective actions to be taken.

Tsunami Warning

Inundating wave possible or imminent, full evacuation suggested

If you are on the water in your vessel

- **At or near shore, or in the Inner Coastal areas of WA**
 - Immediately free any bottom attachments, cut lines if necessary
 - Return to shore and dock your vessel
 - If no docking is available, consider beaching vessel
 - Head for high ground or inland
- **In the open ocean at less than 100 fathoms depth**
 - Immediately free any bottom attachments, cut lines if necessary
 - If the shore is reachable before waves arrive, return to shore and dock your vessel
 - If the shore is unreachable before waves arrive, head to water with depth of more than 100 fathoms
 - Remain as perpendicular to shore as possible
 - Sail directly into wind waves, which may be amplified by tsunami currents
 - Maintain as much separation from other vessels and debris as possible
- **In the open ocean at depth of greater than 100 fathoms**
 - You are relatively safe from tsunami waves and currents, but deeper water is safer, so consider heading to even deeper water if possible

If you are on shore or are on or near your vessel at a dock

- Retrieve Go Bag, then immediately leave your vessel and head inland or to high ground on foot
- You do not have time to save your vessel and could die trying

Tsunami Advisory

Advisory: Strong currents likely, stay out of water / away from shore

If you are on the water in your vessel

- Cease any activities and free any bottom attachments
- Prepare for heavy seas and strong currents
- Monitor VHF channel 16 for Urgent Marine Information Broadcasts from the USCG

- **If at or near shore, or in the Inner Coastal areas of WA**
 - Return to shore if possible, dock or secure vessel, and head inland or to high ground until event is over and all clear is given by authorities
 - If shore is unreachable due to time or danger, head to the deepest, most open water nearby
 - Ensure a depth of at least 30 fathoms at least ½ mile from shore
- **If on the open ocean**
 - Head vessel to depth of 30 fathoms or deeper
 - Remain at least ½ mile from shore
 - If time or conditions permit return to shore, dock your vessel, and head inland or to high ground

If you are on shore, or are on or near your vessel at a dock

- *Taking vessels offshore during a tsunami event is not recommended*
 - Ensure vessel is secured to moorings
 - Retrieve Go Bag from vessel and head inland or to high ground until event is over and all clear is given by authorities
 - Do not return to vessel or shore area until authorities have given the all clear

Tsunami Watch

Danger level not yet known, stay alert for more information

If you are on the water in your vessel

- Prepare to take action
- Gather any needed supplies so they are at the ready
- Monitor emergency communication channels for changes in alert levels
- If you are in the Inner Coast or at a moderate distance from shore, consider ceasing activities and heading closer to the shore
- If you are out on the open ocean monitor the depth of the sea and consider heading for water deeper than 30 fathoms

If you are on shore, or are on or near your vessel at a dock

- Prepare to take action
- Gather any needed supplies so they are at the ready
- Check over your mooring lines to ensure lines are strong enough to hold your vessel and are in good condition
- Check that lines are securely attached to the vessel and securely tied to cleats or other mooring points
- Ensure any items on vessel and slip area are secured

- Wait for notice of a cancellation of the tsunami alert before taking your vessel out on the water

Tsunami Information Statement

No tsunami expected for location, or only minor waves

- No action necessary at this time
- Consider using Information Statements as a reminder to continue to prepare and remain prepared for emergencies. You could:
 - Check that NOAA weather radios and vessel communication systems are in working order for receiving tsunami alerts
 - Develop and/or practice your emergency plan
 - Practice walking your tsunami evacuation routes
 - Work on becoming 2 Weeks Ready
 - Ensure you have Go Bags and emergency supplies in your home, vehicles, and vessels
 - Rotate any supplies that may expire
 - List and/or purchase any additional emergency supplies you may need