

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

If you are on a boat and get a tsunami warning or advisory, your response will depend largely on where you are. Your harbor master, port captain, the United States Coast Guard, and local emergency management are the best sources for tsunami safety information and regulations for boaters in your area.

If you are on land or tied up at the dock:

- ❑ DO NOT take your boat offshore. Leave your boat and go inland to high ground on foot as soon as possible. You may not have time to save your boat and you could put your life at risk.

If you are in deep water or very close to deep water on the OUTER COAST of WA:

- ❑ Take your boat to at least 100 fathoms or to the deepest water you can find straight out from the shoreline. Sail directly into the waves but be careful because tsunami currents can make them bigger. Stay as far away as you can from other boats and work together to avoid crashing into each other. Waves can last more than 24 hours.

If you are in deep water or very close to deep water on the INNER COAST of WA:

- ❑ Get your boat to shore as soon as possible. Leave your boat and go inland to high ground on foot. You may not have time to save your boat and the inner coast waterways will be hard to navigate safely, even in deeper water.

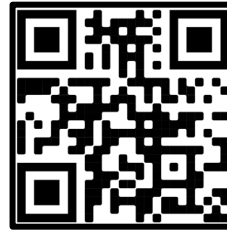
If you are on the water but very near shore, use your best judgement and consider the following before taking protective action:

- The readiness of your boat and crew
- Estimated time before waves arrive
- How long it will take to get to shore
- Current weather conditions
- Traffic on roads and boat ramps

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more about tsunamis, how to protect yourself, and how you can prepare for emergencies, check out these websites:

MIL.WA.GOV/TSUNAMI



Learn more about tsunamis, tsunami alerts, and download tsunami evacuation walk maps, tsunami inundation, and tsunami maximum current speed maps.

MIL.WA.GOV/ALERTS



Get information about emergency alerts and sign up for alerts of all types, including tsunamis, earthquakes, and local alerts. Also learn about NOAA weather radios.

MIL.WA.GOV/PREPAREDNESS



Learn steps you can take to become more prepared for emergencies. Download materials, watch videos, and start or continue your preparedness journey.

TSUNAMIS!

WHAT WASHINGTON'S BOATERS NEED TO KNOW



WHAT ARE TSUNAMIS?

Tsunamis are not like regular waves. They are often caused by earthquakes under the sea or landslides and are multiple, large waves that can last for more than 24 hours. Tsunamis create dangerous floods and strong currents. They move very quickly and are incredibly powerful, like a moving wall of cement. Tsunamis can be very dangerous for boaters.

If you are **ONSHORE**, you might:

- Feel the ground shaking strongly
- Hear a loud roar from the ocean
- See the water quickly pulling back, maybe showing the sea floor
- See water rushing towards the shore faster than usual tides

If you are **OFFSHORE**, you might:

- Feel the boat shake or shudder
- See the water currents suddenly change
- See the waves quickly change in size

Hazards from tsunamis that can directly impact boats and boaters include:

- Sudden changes in water levels causing boats to be grounded
- Strong and unpredictable currents including eddies and whirlpools
- Boats flipping over due to tsunami surges, waves, and complex coastal currents
- Drag on big boats with deep keels
- Collisions with boats, docks, or debris
- Spills of harmful chemicals and waste
- Docks overtopping pilings
- Boats breaking moorings and pulling away from docks

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

- Sign up for alerts at mil.wa.gov/alerts. Tsunami alerts are crucial for boaters, especially for faraway tsunamis that won't make the ground shake.

WARNING Move to high ground!

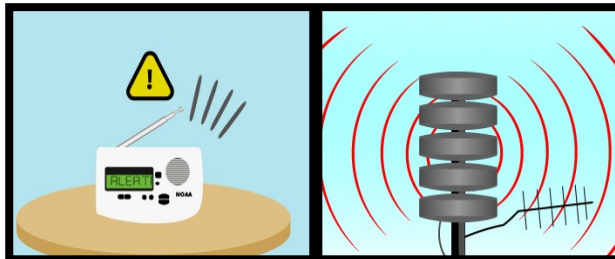
Expect tsunami waves taller than 3 feet and very strong, dangerous currents and flooding of dry land. Tsunami sirens will also go off.

ADVISORY Stay away from the shore.

Expect tsunami waves between 1 to 3 feet and strong, dangerous currents in harbors, channels, and nearby waters.

WATCH Be prepared to take action.

Something has happened that might have caused a tsunami. Stay alert for more details and be ready to follow instructions. More information will be coming soon.



LISTEN TO YOUR MARINE RADIO

- Tune in to channels 13, 14, and 16 to get information about tsunami alerts from the United States Coast Guard.

BUY A NOAA WEATHER RADIO

- NOAA broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including tsunamis.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

KNOW YOUR HAZARDS



- Check out maps that show where tsunamis might flood and how fast the water could move in areas where you take your boat.
- Learn about tsunami warning signs in nature and official tsunami alerts.

MAKE PLANS

- Make plans with your crew for what to do if a tsunami happens while you are on the water or onshore.
- Have a plan to quickly release anchors or fishing gear so your boat is not dragged by tsunami currents.
- Practice and update your plans regularly.
- Securely tie your boat when you dock.
- Replace aging mooring lines.
- Check with your local port and emergency management about their tsunami procedures.



BUILD KITS

- Prepare to be on your own for a while with enough food, fuel, and supplies to last at least 3 days on your boat.
- If you live on your boat, have at least 2 weeks of supplies stored onshore.