

You will need to find your own way to HIGH GROUND above the 20 metre contour line.

Note If there is ample warning time many may decide to leave the area travelling to family or friends. **It is vital you check out with CDEM staff before doing so.** You may be prevented from leaving the area by order from the NZ Police, Civil Defence Controller or NZ Fire Service.

If you are disabled, have impaired hearing, or for any other reason may not be able to hear or react to a warning, please ensure your needs are communicated to your Local Emergency Management Committee.

We know this may not be an easy situation for many but we are talking about a low probability but extreme event. You may be uncomfortable for a time but you will be alive.

For further information or advice on this plan contact a member of your Local Civil Defence Emergency Management Team:

Chris New 027 498 7231
Arama Chase 027 473 5004
Danny Kake 021 049 9109

In Summary

Distance Tsunami will result in an extended signal from BOTH Tairua and Pauanui Fire Stations. Listen to your radio station for further details and be prepared to go to HIGH GROUND above the 20 metre Contour Line.

There may be no warning for a near source Tsunami. If you note unusual behaviour in the tide, or experience a strong earthquake, go immediately to HIGH GROUND.

The following signs will assist you in the evacuation process. Eventually all Evacuation Routes and Assembly Points will be signposted but not before this brochure is distributed.

Know What to Do



Note: A full sized contour map is on display at the Information Centre

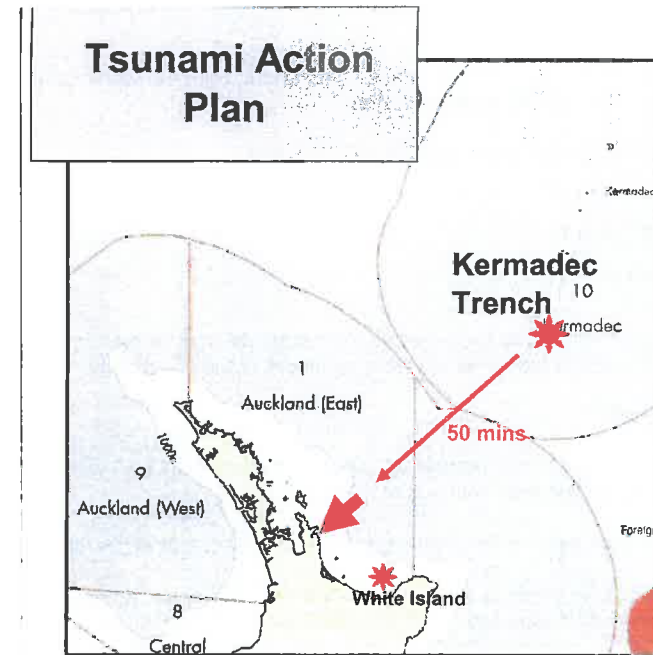
Do not go to the beach. Get to higher ground.

REMEMBER – TSUNAMIS ARE SURVIVABLE

THAMES VALLEY COMBINED CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION



TAIRUA COMMUNITY



**What Do I Need To Know?
How Will I Know?
What Do I Do?**

People Caring For People



TAIRUA COMMUNITY TSUNAMI ACTION PLAN

A Notice To All Residents

The Tairua and Pauanui communities, like many other coastal settlements in New Zealand, are at risk of flooding from both the sea and severe weather events. The purpose of this notice is to outline the 'Tsunami' risk as we understand it at this point in time. Studies are currently in progress and it could be that future modelling may indicate a lesser risk than that accepted at this time. Current research indicates that Whitianga and Gisborne are most at risk.

In the absence of more credible information we need to take the worst case scenario and plan accordingly. **Tsunamis are survivable.**

In simple terms there are three things we need to know;

- What can happen?
- How will I know?
- What do I do?

Let's take each in turn using the exercise to ensure we have a plan in our minds and a determination to survive along with all other members of the community.

What can happen?

Tsunamis have a low probability (usually several hundred years between large events) but an extreme consequence on impact.

There are two types of Tsunami and we need to understand the difference.

- The first is known as a 'Distal' (Distance) Tsunami. It occurs far from New Zealand and may take from three to twelve or more hours to arrive. Pacific monitoring ensures that we have the maximum warning time possible, an indication of the wave height, an expected arrival time and likely areas of maximum impact.
- The second is a 'Near Source' Tsunami originating close to the New Zealand coast. As such there will not usually be any time to issue a formal warning. For our area, Mayor Island and to a lesser degree White Island and the Kermadecs pose such a threat.

How will I know?

Distal (Distance) Tsunamis

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii effectively monitors all seismic activity in the region. Any earthquake over 7.8 on the Richter scale is deemed a possible tsunami source. Information is immediately relayed to all member nations, including New Zealand, indicating a possible Tsunami Alert. The situation is monitored further and a full Tsunami Warning is issued when it is known that a wave has been generated. Further bulletins will provide information on expected arrival times and points of greatest impact.

Normally no action is taken until a wave has been confirmed. Remember that there is still adequate time available to warn. However the events in May 2006 taught us that the international media now receives information direct from the PTWC and commences broadcasts. Should you see or hear such broadcasts tune into your local television or radio station where the latest information should be available.

When a warning is 'CONFIRMED' action will be taken to warn all communities at risk. The following actions will occur at Tairua and Pauanui:

- The Fire Siren, or other audible signal, will sound and continue for an extended period.
- Both Tairua and Pauanui Fire Brigades will have been alerted by pager and will be operating from the Fire Stations.
- Your local communications plan will be activated and essential personnel deployed.
- The fire appliance (and other vehicles) will travel the village announcing the impending arrival and time of a tsunami
- Television and Radio will have constant updates on the situation.

Near Source (Local) Tsunamis

Your first and probably only indication of a local tsunami will be a major earthquake or signs of extreme activity, including the harbour suddenly emptying out. A mild earthquake is unlikely to generate a tsunami.

Note A formal warning is not always possible with a 'Near Source' (Local) Tsunami'.

What do I do?

This is the important one. *Knowing what to do will save your life and others near you.* Do not go down to the beach. Get to higher ground.

It may be necessary to secure and leave your home within a short time frame. To do this we need to be aware of the information above and have made 'Our Plan' to survive.

Included in this action plan is the Civil Defence Emergency Management pamphlet 'Get to High Ground or Go inland'. We strongly suggest you read this for important tips and what's required for 'Emergency Survival'.