

TSUNAMI SAFETY FOR BOATERS

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A tsunami is a series of surging waves generated by earthquakes. Tsunamis can devastate coastlines and create strong, dangerous currents.

Watch out! The first surge may not be the largest, and surges may continue for hours, days, or more.

HOW TO KNOW IF A TSUNAMI IS COMING:

Natural warning signs:

On shore:

Feel ground shaking, hear loud roaring from the sea, see water recede unusually far & expose sea floor.

On the water:

Feel an earthquake through the hull of your boat, see a rapid & extreme shift to an outgoing tide.

Official warning signs:

On shore:

Hear an outdoor siren, receive a cell phone notification via Alertable.

On the water:

Receive Tsunami Advisory or Warning on VHF Radio Ch. 16 or weather frequency (if radio has 'alert' feature).

TYPES OF TSUNAMIS:

The outer BC coast is at risk for tsunamis generated by 2 different earthquake zones: local (Cascadia Subduction Zone; CSZ) and distant (Alaska-Aleutian Subduction Zone; AASZ).

Knowing this is important because local and distant tsunamis have different warnings signs and arrival times.

TSUNAMI HAZARDS:

- Sudden water level fluctuations (boats may hit bottom)
- Strong and unpredictable currents
- Tsunami bores, amplified waves, eddies, and whirlpools
- Collision with boats, rocks, debris, and docks

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A WARNING:

If on land/tied up at dock:

Leave your boat and immediately hike to high ground on foot. You will not have time to save your boat, and you risk death by trying, especially near the shore.

If in shallow water:

If possible, beach or dock your boat and hike to high ground on foot. If landing is impossible, head to deep water as quickly as possible.

If in deep water:

Take your vessel further offshore beyond a depth of at least 100 m (328 ft).

Note: after a local earthquake, there will be no time to motor your boat offshore. Leave your boat at the dock and get to high ground on foot.

HOW TO INTERPRET WARNING SIGNS:

if you feel a strong earthquake...

**LOCAL
TSUNAMI IS
COMING
(within
minutes)**

Note: Ocean noises and seawater recession can be signs of both local & distant tsunamis!

if you receive an official warning...

**DISTANT
TSUNAMI
IS COMING
(within
hours)**

PROTECTIVE ACTIONS: WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A TSUNAMI WARNING

SCENARIO 1: IF ON LAND...



Gather group and hike uphill.

IF TIME: Bring emergency provisions & communications devices.

Leave boats at dock/beach. There will be no time to save them.

SCENARIO 2: IF IN SHALLOW WATER...

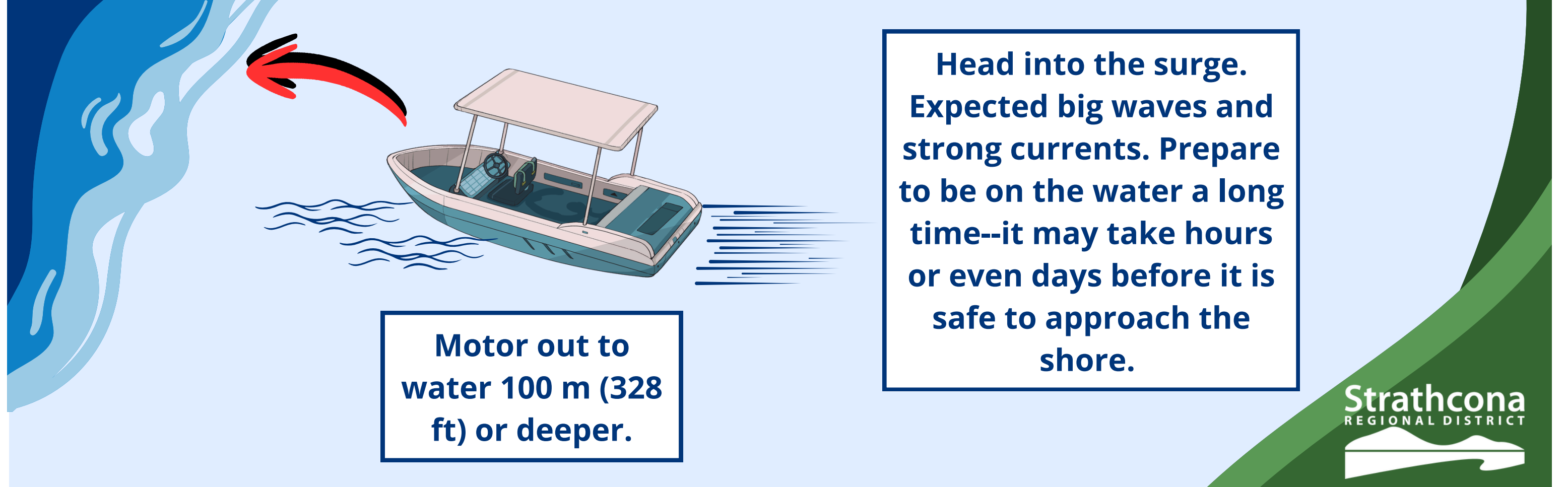


Return to shore immediately and hike to high ground.

During earthquake, do not approach shore until shaking stops (count to 60).

If returning to shore is impossible, head to deep (100+ m) water.

SCENARIO 3: IF IN DEEP WATER...



Motor out to water 100 m (328 ft) or deeper.

Head into the surge. Expected big waves and strong currents. Prepare to be on the water a long time--it may take hours or even days before it is safe to approach the shore.