

# TSUNAMI SAFETY FOR SEA KAYAKERS

## 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:*

Assist group members to hike to high ground. Gather emergency provisions and communication devices if time. There will be no time to save or move boats.

### *If launching/landing or in shallow water:*

If possible, return group to shore and head to high ground on foot. If not, head out to deeper water as quickly as possible.

### *If making a long crossing or in deep water:*

Paddle to water 100m (328 ft) or deeper. Raft up and prepare for strong waves and currents.

## 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...



## SCENARIO 2: IF LAUNCHING/LANDING OR IN SHALLOW WATER...



## SCENARIO 3: IF IN DEEP WATER/MAKING A CROSSING...

