

TSUNAMI WARNING COMMUNICATIONS TEST

Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties

WHEN: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon

WHERE: Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties.

HOW: Interruptions of TV* and Radio Stations, and activation of NOAA Weather Radios and Outdoor Sirens.

**Not all Cable and Satellite TV Stations may be able to participate*

WHY: To test the Tsunami Warning System to ensure it works properly during a real tsunami emergency.

HOW THIS TEST WILL AFFECT YOU:

If you are watching television between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon on Wednesday morning, expect to see a crawler at the bottom of the screen indicating that a tsunami warning has been issued and hear a voice indicating that it is only a test. If you don't hear the TV audio, please remember that this is only a test. If you are listening to the radio, you will hear alerting tones followed by a voice announcing that the test is occurring. If you have a NOAA weather radio with the Public Alert feature, the radio will automatically turn on and you will hear the same message as broadcast on radios. **In some areas, you may also hear the sounding of a tsunami siren, an airplane testing its public address system (possibly as late as 1 pm), or receive other communication tests in some local jurisdictions. The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system will NOT be activated for this test.**

Please help us by providing any feedback for this test by emailing:

ryan.aylward@noaa.gov

When you hear or see the warning test on March 29 between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon:

- You do NOT need to take any action
- Do NOT call 911 or local authorities
- Do NOT evacuate your home or business.

THIS IS ONLY A TEST!!

PREPARE: Find out more about preparing for earthquakes, tsunamis or any other disasters on the North Coast at <http://humboldt.edu/shakyground>, or contact the American Red Cross: Humboldt, Del Norte, Lake, and Mendocino counties – (707) 443-4521. America's PrepareAthon! website (<http://www.community.fema.gov/>) is a great place to get preparedness information for any natural hazard.

The test is conducted by the National Weather Service, the California Office of Emergency Services, the Offices of Emergency Services for Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties, and Tribal Governments. For more information, contact: National Weather Service (707) 443-6484.

Additional Tsunami Safety Information

1. **Official Warnings.** The annual Tsunami Warning Test is focused on a tsunami coming from far away. If you hear that an official tsunami warning has been issued, move away from the beach and out of harbor areas and seek more information without using the phone. Tune into local radio or television stations for more information. Follow the directions of emergency personnel who may ask you to evacuate low lying coastal areas.
2. **Natural Warnings.** If a very long earthquake occurs close to our coast (20 seconds or longer), there will be no time for an official warning to be issued. You must rely on recognizing the natural warning signs of a tsunami. An earthquake is the most likely natural warning sign that a tsunami is coming. Other natural warning signs include the ocean water moving far out exposing the sea floor, or hearing an unusually loud roar from the coast. If you are in a tsunami evacuation zone and observe any of these natural warnings, move to higher ground or inland as soon as it is safe to do so. There may be as little as 10 minutes between the earthquake and tsunami.
3. **Don't Wait.** Respond to whichever type of warning – natural or official - you get first. Don't wait for an official warning if you feel a large earthquake!
4. **Know Your Zone.** Know if you are in the tsunami zone where you live, work, play, and travel. Use tsunami hazard zone signs and tsunami evacuation maps to recognize safe and potentially hazardous areas. If there are no maps or signs in your area, plan to go to an area 100 feet above sea level or 2 miles inland (note that the 100 feet is extreme overkill).
5. **Go on Foot.** If you evacuate, go by foot if possible. An earthquake may damage roads and bridges and heavy traffic may cause gridlock and limit your access to a safe area.
6. **When in Doubt; Drill it out.** If you observe any of the natural warnings, but especially a long earthquake, and you are not sure if there is a threat of a tsunami, go ahead and evacuate to high ground. If it turns out that there is not a tsunami then you can just think of your evacuation as a very realistic drill.