



Port Hardy Tsunami Preparedness

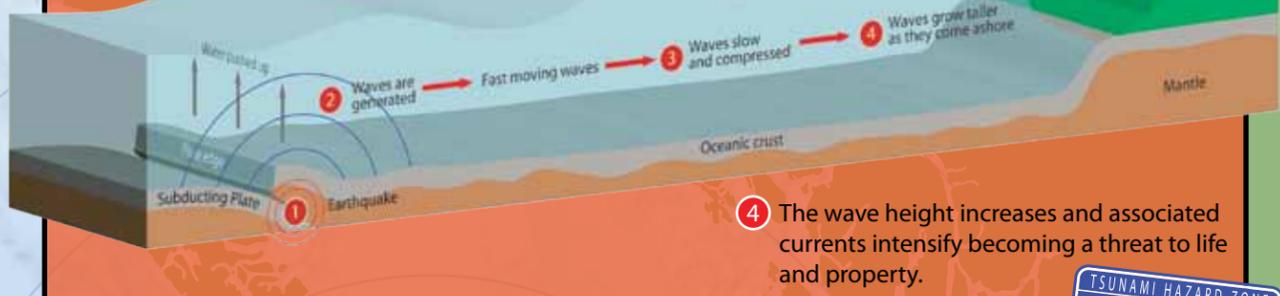


i Information in an emergency:

- www.porthardy.ca
- Facebook - Port Hardy Emergency
- The Port Radio 1240 AM
- CBC Radio 95.5 FM
- www.northislandgazette.com

Prepared by the District of Port Hardy
Emergency Program Committee

- ## How a Tsunami Works
- 1 An underwater earthquake occurs when a plate shifts abruptly and pushes water upward with tremendous force.
 - 2 Low and fast waves are generated in all directions across the ocean, some speeding as fast as 600m.p.h.
 - 3 As waves enter shallower water, they are compressed, their speed slows and they build in height.



4 The wave height increases and associated currents intensify becoming a threat to life and property.



Let's Be Earthquake and Tsunami Smart

Earthquakes are common in BC and are capable of causing both damage and tsunamis that could impact our community. Wherever you are when an earthquake starts, take cover immediately. Move a few steps to a nearby safe place if need be. **Drop, Cover and Hold On!**

Indoors, the safest places are beneath sturdy furniture, beside a solid inside wall or in a corner or inside an inner hallway. If you are outdoors, stay in the open, away from trees, buildings and power lines.

When an earthquake is over, it is important to stay calm and move cautiously. If you and your family are okay, place an OK sign in your window to let emergency workers know. OK and HELP signs are available for downloading at www.embc.gov.bc.ca.

Your best protection from a tsunami is to seek high ground. Do not wait for an official warning. For tsunami vulnerable zones, see the maps in this brochure. Expect several waves over many hours. The second or third wave may be bigger than the first.

Depending on an earthquake's origin, a tsunami could reach us in as little as 15 minutes or over 15 hours later. Little can be done to warn of local tsunamis because their travel time is too short. If you feel the ground shaking, you should move out of the tsunami zone to higher ground.

Evacuation Centres (see maps on reverse)

- Hardy Bay/Downtown area residents report to the Civic Centre.
- Storey's Beach residents report to Avalon School.
- Bear Cove Highway residents evacuate to high ground in that area.

If you have transportation or are able to walk you should proceed along the evacuation routes to the evacuation centres. We urge residents who are immobile due to disabilities to plan ahead with neighbours or family to organize your evacuation. Do not return to low-lying areas until you are informed that it is safe to do so.

What Does It Mean?

Tsunami Warning
There is confirmed evidence of a tsunami. Residents in the tsunami vulnerable areas of the District must evacuate to high ground.

Tsunami Advisory
A tsunami which may produce strong currents and is dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected. You should prepare for evacuation.

Tsunami Watch
A tsunami watch is an early alert issued to areas which may later be impacted by a tsunami.

DO NOT go to the beach to watch the tsunami. A tsunami moves faster than a person can run.

Move to a tsunami-safe zone in your community (refer to map). Remember to take your family emergency kit with you.

Chances are you will be relying upon supplies you have in your home for the first 72 hours following a disaster. Realistically, that time may be closer to seven days. To help make that time as comfortable as possible, plan to store supplies that will assist you during that time.

Preparedness and awareness information is available through www.getprepared.gc.ca

The District of Port Hardy has preparedness and awareness information available on our website: www.porthardy.ca

Information is available in the Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual. Please contact the District Office for a copy.

Have a family plan for emergencies and evacuation. Make sure all family members know what to do if you are separated. It may not be possible for first responders to assist you.

You should plan for your pets' care by storing their food and dishes in your emergency kit.

Hardy Bay Danger Zone and Evacuation Site

Storey's Beach Danger Zone and Evacuation Site

Tsunami Hazard Zones

Warning
Danger
Run for high ground
There is confirmed evidence of a tsunami. Residents in the hazard area are strongly urged to evacuate to higher ground.

Advisory
Possible strong and dangerous local currents
A tsunami which may produce strong currents and is dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected. You should prepare for evacuation.

Watch
Potential Danger
A tsunami watch is an early alert issued to areas which may later be impacted by a tsunami.

Information/ Cancellation/ All Clear
No Danger
No action required.