

ARE YOU IN A TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONE?

To find out if the places you live, work or visit are in the tsunami evacuation zone, have a look at the map over the page, or go to our online map at cdemcanterbury.govt.nz/hazards/tsunamis or the national map at getready.govt.nz/tsunami-evacuation-zones.

BLUE TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONE

This area could be flooded or cut off in a tsunami. It includes lagoons, estuaries, river mouths, beaches and low-lying coastal areas. It is based on 'worst case' scenarios and covers small as well as rare, large tsunamis.

You should evacuate the blue zone if you feel a long (more than a minute) or strong (hard to stand up) earthquake - a tsunami could be on its way.

If a tsunami is coming from across the Pacific Ocean you will not feel the earthquake, but there will be time to tell you which areas to evacuate. You may not need to evacuate the whole zone, you may just need to stay out of the sea, lagoons, estuaries, river mouths and off beaches.

NOT IN THE BLUE TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONE?

You do not have to evacuate if you feel a long or strong earthquake.

But you could help someone else! Could friends or family who live in a tsunami evacuation zone come to you if they have to evacuate?



THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WILL GO

If you need to evacuate it is best to go to a friend or relative's place outside the tsunami evacuation zone. Civil Defence Centres will be set up and announced through the [@@ territorial authority website and social media](#) but this may take some time.

PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR EVACUATION ROUTES

Work out the best route for your household to get out of the tsunami evacuation zone. Walk or cycle if you can to avoid damage to roads and bridges or getting stuck in traffic. If you do drive, check if your neighbours need a lift. Walk, bike or drive your evacuation route(s) with your household so you are all familiar with it before you need it.

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE

You may be away from your house for many hours during a tsunami evacuation. Take essential items that you can easily find and carry, such as water, snacks, warm clothes, medication, supplies for babies and pets, and copies of important documents. Have a household discussion about what to take and where they are. Take your pets with you if you can - they are your responsibility.

WHEN IS IT SAFE TO RETURN?

Stay out of the tsunami evacuation zone until Civil Defence Emergency Management tells you it is safe to return. **@@If the tsunami sirens stop sounding this does not mean you can return.** Tsunami activity may continue for many hours and the first wave may not be the largest.

FINDING INFORMATION IN A TSUNAMI EVACUATION

- You can find information during a tsunami evacuation at:
- cdemcanterbury.govt.nz
 - [@@ territorial authority website](#)
 - [@@ territorial authority social media](#)
 - [@@ Radio NZ <frequency>](#)
 - [@@ Newstalk ZB <frequency>](#)
 - [@@ other radio stations incl local](#)

EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERTS



Emergency Mobile Alerts (EMAs) are one way of finding out about serious threats. If you are in a blue tsunami evacuation zone you should evacuate immediately after a long or strong earthquake and not wait for a warning. If a tsunami has been created close by there may not be time for an EMA. EMAs are messages sent by emergency agencies to capable mobile phones. An EMA can be targeted to a specific area and will only be sent when there is a serious threat to life, health or property.

If a tsunami is likely to flood land, the National Emergency Management Agency will issue an EMA to the areas under threat telling people to EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY or to PREPARE TO EVACUATE (if the first waves aren't expected for several hours). The Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group will send a follow-up EMA to the areas under threat with more detailed local evacuation information.

Immediately follow the advice of any emergency warning. Do not wait for more messages before you act.

To check whether your phone can receive EMAs visit getready.govt.nz/ema



LONG OR STRONG? GET OUT OF THE BLUE ZONE

-  IF you feel an earthquake that is longer than a minute or
-  OR you feel an earthquake so strong it's hard to stand up
-  OR the sea is behaving strongly or making loud roaring noises

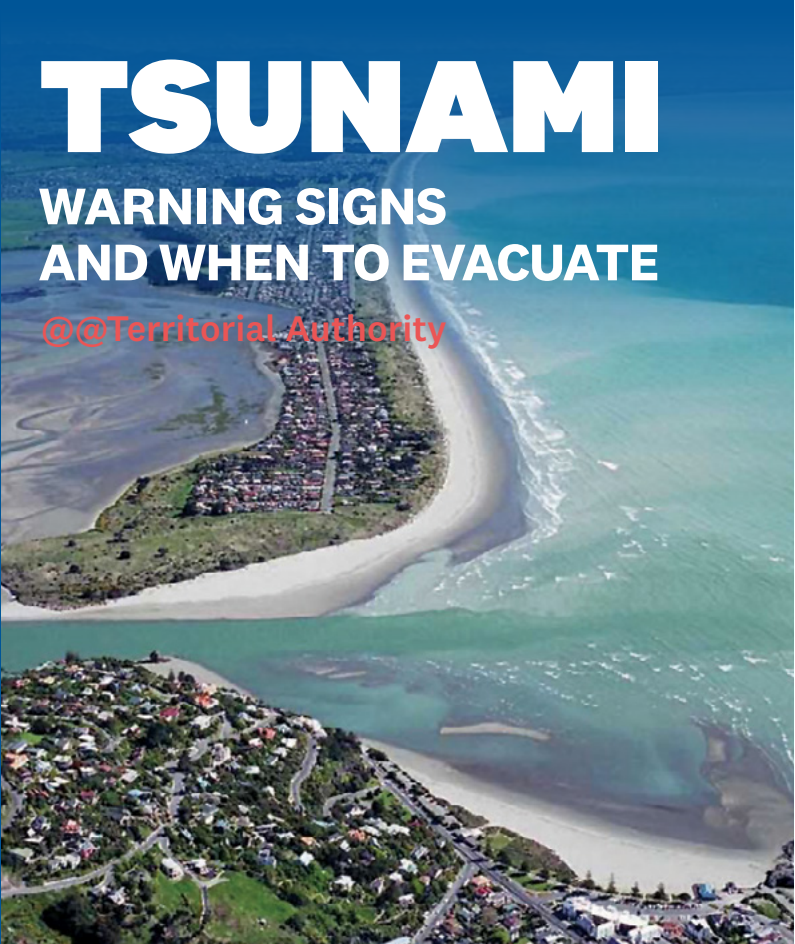
Do not wait for sirens, emergency mobile alerts or official warnings.

A tsunami is a series of powerful, long waves that move through the ocean or a lake. They are caused by a sudden disturbance to the water like an earthquake, volcanic eruption, or a landslide into or under the water. Tsunami can cause strong and dangerous currents and surges in harbours, estuaries, river mouths and on beaches. Occasionally, tsunamis are big enough to rapidly flood land with debris-laden water, causing damage and injuries. Tsunamis have caused damage, deaths and injuries in New Zealand in the past. The first tsunami wave or surge may not be the biggest. The largest wave can arrive hours after the first wave and waves can continue for many hours or days.

A tsunami evacuation zone is an area you may need to evacuate from if you feel a long or strong earthquake, or there is an official tsunami advisory or warning. Tsunamis may be generated close to our shore and the first waves could arrive within one hour. There may not be time for an official advisory or warning. You need to evacuate the blue tsunami evacuation zones immediately if you feel a long or strong earthquake. If a tsunami is coming from further away - in the Pacific Islands or across the Pacific Ocean - there will be time for an official advisory or warning. You will be told which areas to evacuate from.

TSUNAMI WARNING SIGNS AND WHEN TO EVACUATE

[@@Territorial Authority](#)



[@@Territorial Authority logo](#)

IF AN EARTHQUAKE IS
**LONG OR STRONG,
GET GONE**



Keep this information with your emergency items - you may need it if power or the internet is down.



To find your tsunami evacuation zones visit:
cdemcanterbury.govt.nz/hazards/tsunamis



To make a household plan visit:
getready.govt.nz/make-a-plan

This information reflects our best knowledge as of June 2026. Please visit our websites for the latest information.

cdemcanterbury.govt.nz [@@territorial authority website](#)

TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONES:
@@TERRITORIAL AUTHORITY

Toppings Road

State Highway 1

Ashley River/Rakahuri

Waikuku Beach

State Highway 1

Preece Road
Nga Tupuna St
Pegasus Main St

Pegasus

Woodend

Pegasus Bay



?
DID YOU KNOW...

Tsunamis have arrived on the Pegasus Bay coast in 1868, 1877, 1960 and 2010. These tsunamis all came from South American and took more than 15 hours to get here. But Pegasus Bay is also at risk from tsunamis created off the eastern/northern North Island and southern South Island coasts that could arrive within an hour.

SIRENS

The sirens at Waikuku Beach will be sounded in an official tsunami advisory or warning. Follow the instructions of the voice message. The sirens will only be sounded if there is time for an official advisory or warning. Evacuate the red and orange tsunami evacuation zones if you feel a long or strong earthquake – DO NOT WAIT for the siren to sound. The sirens are tested at least twice a year, usually around day/light savings start and end.



LONG OR STRONG EARTHQUAKE?
GET OUT OF THE BLUE ZONE

DO NOT WAIT for sirens, emergency mobile alerts or official warnings.

