

# What should I do if a tsunami occurs?

The strength of a tsunami in coastal areas depends on several factors, including the strength of the initial event, the distance from the source, and local conditions such as topography.

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## BEFORE - What general precautions can I take?

### Information

- ▶ **Find out** about the general risk situation in your area, including escape routes, evacuation plans and assembly points. In tsunami-prone areas, this information should be clearly signposted. If necessary, ask your accommodation provider for the relevant evacuation plans and instructions. Find out in advance whether a tsunami warning system is in place, and how warning messages are provided (e.g. text message or smartphone app).
- ▶ **In all cases, the instructions issued by disaster and civil protection organisations must be followed.**

### Preparation

- ▶ **If necessary, put together an emergency kit** containing torches, a battery-powered radio, a first aid kit, medication, drinking water and an evacuation plan. Inform those around you about your preparations and involve them.
- ▶ Make sure **important documents** are stored safely and are easily accessible.



## WHAT TO DO - How should I behave?

You should take the following actions if you receive a tsunami warning or notice any of the following phenomena:

- A strong or long earthquake (lasting more than 1 minute)
- A sudden and unusual retreat of the sea, a sudden rise in sea level, or a very large wave on the horizon
- A deep, loud sound coming from the sea.



### Behaviour on land

- ▶ Walk immediately along the signposted routes to the designated assembly points. If the evacuation routes are not signposted, walk to significantly higher ground or inland.
- ▶ Go to the third floor or higher of a reinforced concrete building, or to a designated tsunami shelter.
- ▶ Look for something you can use as a raft should you get caught in a tsunami.

**In any case, follow the official instructions and stay away from danger zones until the all-clear is given – tsunamis can last for hours.**



### Behaviour on water, in boats and on ships

On the open sea (deeper than 100 m), tsunami waves are hardly noticeable, so your behaviour should depend on the current position of your boat:

- ▶ If your boat is already in deep water, it is better to stay away from the coast.
- ▶ If your boat is in a port or close to the coast, you should consider abandoning it and following the above instructions.
- ▶ If your boat is in the middle, work out where you can get to more quickly: the coast or deeper waters.

Following a tsunami, port facilities may be damaged and debris of all kinds may pose a risk. Dangerous wave activity and currents in and around ports can persist for hours. Therefore, maintain constant contact with the port authorities or listen to marine radio reports to find out how to proceed.



## AFTER - What should you do after a tsunami?

### Follow the official instructions in all cases!!

- Help anyone who is injured or trapped, and call for help if necessary!
- Avoid areas with standing water, as well as damaged buildings, roads and bridges.
- Do not return to your accommodation until the authorities have declared it safe to do so.
- Dispose of any food that has come into contact with floodwater. Clean and disinfect anything that has become wet.
- Take care of yourself. Contact disaster emergency services if you need someone to talk to.

### Further information is available at:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de>

<https://krisenvorsorgeliste.diplo.de/signin>

[https://www.bbk.bund.de/DE/Themen/NOAH/noah\\_node.html](https://www.bbk.bund.de/DE/Themen/NOAH/noah_node.html)

### Where can I find further information on hazard situations?

The GFZ earthquake information page provides a global overview of earthquake hazards:

<https://www.gfz.de/en/press/earthquake-information>

A large-format global seismic hazard map is available for download at

<https://www.gfz.de/en/press/earthquake-information/world-map-of-earthquake-activity>

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