



*United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission*

## **International Tsunami Information Center**

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## **TSUNAMI SAFETY RULES**

1. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. When you hear that an earthquake has occurred, stand by for a tsunami emergency.
2. An earthquake in your area is a natural tsunami warning. Do not stay in low-lying coastal areas after a strong earthquake has been felt.
3. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by competent authority.
4. Approaching tsunamis are sometimes preceded by a noticeable rise or fall of coastal water. This is nature's tsunami warning and should be heeded.
5. Small tsunami at one point on the shore can be extremely large a few miles away. Don't let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
6. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center does not issue false alarms. When a Warning is issued, a tsunami exists. The tsunami of May 1960 killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii, and they thought it was "just another false alarm."
7. All tsunamis like hurricanes are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.
8. Never go down to the shore to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave you are too close to escape it. Never try to surf a tsunami; tsunamis do not curl or break like surfing waves.
9. Sooner or later, tsunamis visit every coastline in the Pacific. Warnings apply to you if you live in any Pacific coastal area.
10. During a tsunami emergency, your local civil defense, police, and other emergency organizations will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation.