

Get ready for tsunamis

Prepare your family and home for tsunamis.



Did you know?

- Tsunami waves can travel at speeds of up to **50 km/h** in shallow waters, reaching the coast in minutes.
- In 1994, a tsunami travelled **300 metres inland** in the Onslow-Exmouth region of Western Australia.
- Tsunamis can trigger severe flooding, destroying homes and property.

What is a tsunami?

Tsunamis are very large waves caused by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or landslides near or in the ocean. The waves are very fast and can flood the beach and much of the land beyond.

Tsunamis can:

- cause injury or death
- flood coasts, areas below sea level, homes and roads, making it dangerous to stay near the beach of foreshore
- disrupt transport, power, water and phone services
- sweep debris inland, making rescue and recovery dangerous.

Am I at risk?

Tsunamis are most likely to occur along the north-west and eastern coasts of Australia. However, they can happen anywhere.

You are most at risk if you live, work, or travel near:

- Coastal areas or places at or below sea level
- Beaches and foreshore parks
- Bays, harbours and tidal rivers.

If a tsunami is confirmed, or the potential impact is less than 90 minutes away, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) will issue warnings for you to take immediate action.



How to prepare for a tsunami

Preparing today can help you stay safe if there is a tsunami. Talk with everyone in your home and prepare together so each person knows what to do.

To prepare for a tsunami, you should:



Make an emergency plan



Pack an emergency kit



Talk to your neighbours and local community

To learn more, visit the website

getready.gov.au



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency

Know the warning signs



If you see any of these signs, **act immediately**: move inland or to higher ground.

If you feel the earth shake

An undersea earthquake may be felt before a tsunami, though distant ones might not be noticeable.

If you see the ocean drop

The sea may suddenly recede (but not always) before a tsunami strikes. It then returns as a fast-moving wave.

If you hear an unusual roaring

A loud ocean roar can signal an approaching tsunami.

Make an emergency plan



Talk to your family about what you will do if there is a tsunami.

Preparing today can help you stay safe and reduce stress when there is a tsunami. People who are prepared recover faster.

An emergency plan is a written document. **Here's what to include in your plan:**

Who will you call in an emergency?

Keep a list of important phone numbers in case you need help.

When will you leave and how will you stay safe when you go?

If you notice the warning signs, leave the area immediately.

- Leave straight away — do not wait for official warnings.
- If told to evacuate, follow directions from emergency services.

Where will you go?

- Go at least one kilometre inland or to higher ground.
- To avoid being stuck in traffic, leave by foot.
- If you cannot leave, move to the top floor of a strong building at least ten metres above sea level.

Regularly check state and local government emergency service websites and social media for updates on conditions in your area.

Pack an emergency kit



An emergency kit is a box or bag of essential items you can pack today so you are ready if a tsunami or other emergency happens.

Have at least three days of supplies in case you must stay home without power or water.

Keep your kit in a dry, easy-to-reach place, and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is.



What to pack in your emergency kit

Pack these items now so your kit is always ready. You may need to add items to your kit based on your family's specific situation.

- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Woollen blankets
- ☐ Toiletries and toilet paper
- ☐ Sunscreen and hand sanitiser
- ☐ Medicines and a first aid kit
- ☐ Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day)
- ☐ Food (non-perishable food and a can opener)
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Torch & spare batteries

If you need to leave, make sure you take:

- ☐ Mobile phone and charger
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ Valuables
- ☐ Cash and bank cards
- ☐ Medicines

Where to get more information

Find the contact details for your state or territory emergency services.

getready.gov.au



Learn how to receive warnings and prepare for tsunamis and other natural hazards.

During a tsunami, listen to local alerts and updates on ABC or SBS radio.

Call **131 450** for the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).



If you are in an emergency,
call 000 immediately.



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