




## Natural warning signs




### The natural warning signs of a tsunami are:

-  **FEEL the ground shake.** If you are near the ocean this may mean a large earthquake has happened nearby. This may generate a tsunami.
-  **SEE the ocean drop.** As a tsunami approaches the shore, the ocean may drop, but not always.
-  **HEAR a roaring sound.** This may be heard before the arrival of a tsunami.






## When a Tsunami Warning is issued

When the Bureau of Meteorology issues a Tsunami Warning, act early.

### Marine and immediate foreshore threat



-  Get out of the water and move to high ground away from the immediate foreshore (beach, rocks, estuary etc.)
-  Boats near to shore should return to the nearest mooring. Secure your boat and move to high ground.
-  Boats located offshore should move to deep water

In the event of a **land inundation threat** you will ALSO need to do the following:

-  Move to higher ground, at least 10 metres above sea level or 1 kilometre inland
-  Take only essential items, such as important papers, family photographs and medication
-  Leave by foot, roads may be congested or closed
-  If you cannot get to higher ground seek shelter in the upper storey of a sturdy brick or concrete building
-  Do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami

## After a tsunami

A Tsunami - Return With Caution - Advice, will be issued by the NSW SES when it is safe to return to areas impacted by tsunami. It may not be safe to return for up to 24 hours or longer, depending on the impacts.

-  Do not go sightseeing
-  Keep listening to radio for information, updates and advice

## Recovery

Disaster Recovery Centres may be established following a major tsunami. They may provide a range of welfare services including financial assistance, personal support, organising temporary accommodation and providing information and referrals.



## Further information

**Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre  
(Bureau of Meteorology) - 1300 878 6264**  
[bom.gov.au/tsunami](http://bom.gov.au/tsunami) for the latest Tsunami Warnings



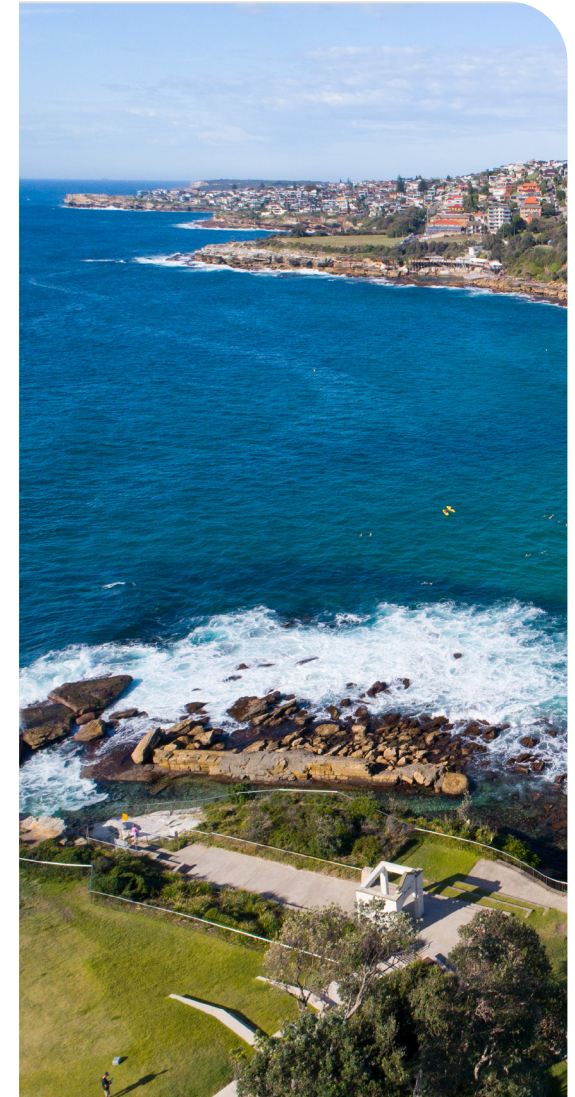
September 2023

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,  
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (Triple Zero)

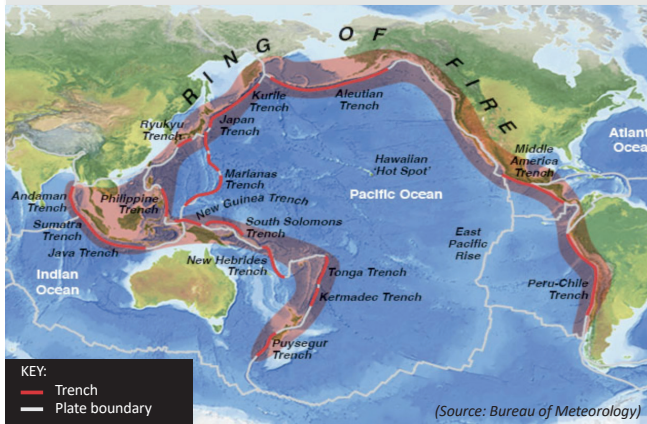
For further information about tsunami visit  
[ses.nsw.gov.au](http://ses.nsw.gov.au)



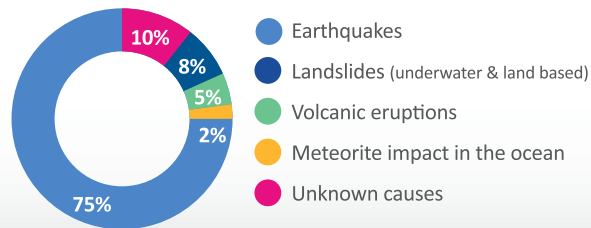
## What is a tsunami

Tsunami are a series of powerful waves, the first wave is not always the largest. As tsunami waves approach shallow water, they slow down, their height grows and they get closer together. A tsunami that is invisible at sea may grow to be several metres or more in height near the coast.

Most tsunami are triggered by undersea earthquakes. The nearest active earthquake zones to NSW are the trenches to the north and south of New Zealand.



## What causes a tsunami



## How likely are tsunami?

There have been over 50 recorded tsunami events on the Australian coastline since European settlement. We are more likely to experience marine and immediate foreshore threat tsunami than a land inundation threat tsunami.

Early evacuation could help protect many people.

## Bureau of Meteorology warnings

**No Threat:** an undersea earthquake has been detected, however it has not caused a tsunami, or the tsunami poses no threat to Australia and its offshore areas.

**Marine and Immediate Foreshore Threat:** warning of potentially dangerous rips, waves and strong ocean currents and the possibility of only some localised overflow onto the immediate foreshore.

**Land Inundation Threat:** warning for low-lying coastal areas of major land inundation, flooding, dangerous rips, waves and strong ocean currents.

## NSW SES Warnings

Under the Australian Warning System, NSW SES may issue:


Advice

An incident is happening. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

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ACTION STATEMENTS

Stay Informed  
Monitor Conditions  
Reduced Threat:  
Return with Caution


Emergency Warning

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.

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ACTION STATEMENTS

Evacuate now / Evacuate before [time]  
Avoid the Area

## How to prepare yourself

### Some of the things you can do are:

- Prepare an emergency kit
- Determine if you live or work in an area to be evacuated in a land inundation threat tsunami (see map overleaf)
- Know where the nearest high ground and evacuation areas are located
- Discuss your emergency plan with the people you know
- Identify an evacuation route to the nearest high ground
- Prepare to take your pets with you and what essential items you can easily carry
- Be aware of what to do in case there is a Tsunami Watch or Warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology.



## How could I receive official Advice and Emergency Warnings?

Depending on lead time and available resources, official warnings may be issued using one or more of the following methods:

**Tune In:** Radio and television broadcasts are one way of receiving warnings. They may be accompanied by the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) - a siren-like noise.

**Log On:** To the Bureau of Meteorology [bom.gov.au/tsunami](http://bom.gov.au/tsunami) and NSW SES website [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au). Official warnings may also be shared on **social media** including Facebook and Twitter.

**Listen Out:** Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) or an announcement through a loud speaker.

**A text or recorded message** on your phone may be sent to people in the areas impacted.

**Low flying aircraft** equipped with public address systems.

**Two-way radio / Marine Satellite Phone** UHF, CB marine VHF radios and where appropriate marine satellite phones.

Your **friends and family** may pass on official warnings.