

WHAT TO DO? TSUNAMI SAFETY FOR BOATERS



1. Since tsunami waves are imperceptible in the open ocean. Do not return to port if you are at sea and a tsunami warning has been issued.
2. Tsunamis can cause rapid changes in water level and unpredictable dangerous currents that are magnified in ports and harbors. Boats and boaters are classified as a tsunami high risk group.
3. Boats are safer from tsunami damage while in the deep ocean of at least 200 fathoms deep (1,200 feet or 400 meters) rather than moored in a harbor. Port facilities could become damaged and hazardous with debris. Listen to mariner radio reports when it is safe to return to port.
4. Do not risk your life and attempt to motor your boat into deep water if it is too close to wave arrival time. Anticipate slowdowns caused by traffic gridlock and hundreds of other boaters heading out to sea. Small boat owners may find it safest to leave their boat at the pier and physically move to higher ground. Concurrent severe weather conditions may also make this the only option.
5. In a locally generated earthquake - tsunami scenario, there will be no time to deploy a boat as waves can come ashore within minutes.
6. In a distant generated earthquake - tsunami scenario, there will be more time (one or more hours) to deploy a boat. Listen for official tsunami wave arrival time estimates and plan accordingly.
7. Most large harbors and ports are under the control of a harbor authority and/or a vessel traffic system. These authorities direct operations during periods of increased readiness, including the forced movement of vessels if deemed necessary. Keep in contact with the authorities should a forced movement be directed.
8. Damaging wave activity and unpredictable currents can affect harbors for a long time following the initial tsunami impact on the coast. Contact the harbor authority or listen to mariner radio reports before returning to port. Make sure that conditions in the harbor are safe for navigation and berthing.



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Painting by: Lucas Rawah, Papua New Guinea, 1998