

Be Prepared, Not Scared

Coastal areas that experience earthquakes are also at risk for tsunamis. Below is information to help and your flying partners prepare for this type of natural disaster should you layover in coastal communities. Being ready is the first step in feeling in- control and managing a sudden event.

What is a Tsunami

A tsunami is a series of enormous ocean waves caused by earthquakes, underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions, or asteroids. Tsunamis can:

- Travel 20-30 miles per hour with waves 10-100 feet high.
- Cause flooding and disrupt transportation, power, communications, and the water supply.
- Happen anywhere along coastlines.

If you are under a tsunami warning

- First, protect yourself from an Earthquake. **Drop, Cover, then Hold On.**
- Get to high ground as far inland as possible.
- Be alert to signs of a tsunami, such as a sudden rise or draining of ocean waters.
- Listen out for any emergency information and alerts.
- Evacuate: **DO NOT** wait! Gather your crewmembers together and leave as soon as you see any natural signs of a tsunami or receive an official tsunami warning.

Prepare now

- Learn the signs of a potential tsunami, such as an earthquake, a loud roar from the ocean, or unusual ocean behavior, such as a sudden rise or wall of water or sudden draining of water showing the ocean floor.
- Create a crew emergency communication plan that includes where to meet if you get separated (A pre-flight briefing is the perfect time for this!).
- Create a family emergency communication plan.
- Identify if the coastal community you are staying in has maps with evacuation zones and routes. If not, you and your crew members should map out your own evacuation route, both by foot and car. Select evacuation sites which are 100 feet or more above sea level, or at least one mile inland.

- If available, sign up for the community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Travel with extra batteries for your flash light, food items that don't need refrigeration, extra medications, and a charged power pack for your cell phone.

Survive During

- If you are in a tsunami area and there is an earthquake, then first protect yourself from the earthquake. Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops. Crawl only if you can reach better cover, but do not go through an area with more debris.
- When the shaking stops, if there are natural signs or official warnings of a tsunami, then move immediately to a safe place as high and as far inland as possible. Listen to the authorities, but do not wait for tsunami warnings and evacuation orders.
- If you are outside of the tsunami hazard zone and receive a warning, then stay where you are unless officials tell you otherwise.
- Leave immediately if you are told to do so. Evacuation routes are often marked by a wave with an arrow in the direction of higher ground.

Be Safe After

- Listen to local alerts and authorities for information on areas to avoid and shelter locations.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris. Water may be deeper than it appears.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Underground or downed power lines can electrically charge water. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.
- Stay away from damaged buildings, roads, and bridges.
- Save phone calls for emergencies. Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.