

If you are disabled, have impaired hearing, or for any other reason may not be able to hear or react to a warning, please ensure your needs are communicated to the Whiritoa Civil Defence Emergency Management Team.

It is recognised that this may not be an easy situation for many. However we are talking about a low probability but extreme event. You may be uncomfortable for a time but you will be alive.

For further information and advice contact a member of your Whiritoa Civil Defence Emergency Management Team as under.

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THAMES VALLEY COMBINED CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION



WHIRITOA COMMUNITY

PLEASE DO NOT GO DOWN TO THE BEACH

Full size map is on display at the Fire Station and Whiritoa Store.

- assembly area
- fire station



SUMMARY -

WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

Yes a tsunami is possible.

HOW WILL I KNOW?

Extended Siren and local warning systems if the tsunami is from a distance.

No warning if it is a near source tsunami other than a significant felt earthquake or eruption.

WHAT DO I DO?

Listen to your local radio or television if a warning is given.

If you are advised to evacuate, or if it is a local source tsunami;

- Follow your plan and go immediately to the Assembly Area for further advice and instructions.

REMEMBER – TSUNAMIS ARE SURVIVABLE.

TSUNAMI ACTION PLAN

*What Do I Need To Know
How Will I Know
What Do I Do*



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Last Update 15 August 2006

WHIRITOA COMMUNITY TSUNAMI ACTION PLAN

A Notice To Whiritoa Residents

The Whiritoa community, like many other coastal settlements in New Zealand, is at risk from flooding from both the sea and severe weather events. The purpose of this notice is to outline the 'Tsunami' risk as we understand it at this point in time. Studies are currently in progress and it may well be that Whiritoa is not at extreme risk. Current research indicates that Whitianga and Gisborne are most at risk.

However in the absence of more credible information we need to take the worse case scenario and plan accordingly.

Tsunamis are survivable.

In simple terms there are three things we need to know;

- What can happen?
- How will I know?
- What do I do?

Let's take each in turn using the exercise to ensure we have a plan in our minds and a determination to survive along with all other members of the community.

What can happen?

Yes you do live in an area subject to possible inundation from a tsunami event.

Tsunamis have a low probability (usually several hundred years between large events) but an extreme consequence on impact.

There are two types of Tsunami and we need to understand the difference.

- The first is known as a 'Distal' (Distance) tsunami. It occurs far from New Zealand and may take from three to twelve or more hours to arrive. Pacific monitoring ensures that we have the maximum warning time possible, an indication of the wave height, an expected arrival time and likely areas of maximum impact.
- The second is a 'Near Source' Tsunami originating close to the New Zealand coast. As such there will not usually be any time to issue a formal warning. For Whiritoa a possible source of Tsunami is Mayor Island and to a lesser degree White Island.

How will I know?

Distal (Distance) Tsunamis

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii effectively monitors all seismic activity in the region. Any earthquake over 7.8 on the Richter scale is deemed a possible tsunami source. Information is immediately relayed to all member nations, including New Zealand, indicating a possible Tsunami Alert. The situation is monitored further and a full Tsunami Warning is issued when it is known that a wave has been generated. Further bulletins will provide information on expected arrival times and points of greatest impact.

Normally no action is taken until a wave has been confirmed. Remember that there is still adequate time available to warn. However the events in May 2006 taught us that the international media now receives information direct from the PTWC and commences broadcasts. Should you see or hear such broadcasts tune into your local television or radio station where the latest information should be available.

When a warning is 'CONFIRMED' action will be taken to warn all communities at risk. The following actions will occur at Whiritoa.

- The Fire Siren will sound and continue for an extended period.
- The Whiritoa Fire Force will have been alerted by pager and will be operating from the Fire Station.
- Your local communications plan will be activated and essential personnel deployed.
- The fire appliance (and other vehicles) will travel the village announcing the impending arrival and time of a tsunami
- Television and Radio will have constant updates on the situation.

Near Source (Local) Tsunamis

Your first and probably only indication of a local tsunami will be a major earthquake or signs of extreme activity at Mayor Island. A mild earthquake is unlikely to generate a tsunami.

Note. No formal warning is possible with a 'Near Source' (Local) Tsunami'.

What do I do?

This is the important one. Knowing what to do will save your life and others near you.

Obviously it will be necessary to secure and leave your home within possibly a short time frame. To do this we need to be aware of the information above and have made 'Our Plan' to survive.

Each copy of this plan will have with it a Civil Defence Emergency Management pamphlet entitled "Will you cope when disaster strikes?" It is strongly suggested you read this for important information on basic survival tips and what is required in an 'Emergency Survival Kit'.

You will need to find your way to the 'Assembly' Area up the driveway off SH25 opposite the intersection with Whiritoa Beach Road. Whiritoa Civil Defence Emergency Management Staff will check you off against a master list of residents and provide directions as required.

Note. If there is ample warning time many may decide to leave the area travelling to family or friends. **It is vital you check out with CDEM staff before doing so.** You may be prevented from leaving the area by order from the NZ Police, Civil Defence Controller or NZ Fire Service.