

# TSUNAMI

## AN INTRODUCTION

As Oxnard residents, we are fortunate to live in a lovely beach community. With that gift comes the awareness that coastal living brings with it a potential for a tsunami.

Tsunamis (pronounced *soo-ná-mees*) are traveling ocean waves generated by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or meteorite. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and, in extreme cases, can reach land with waves as high as 30 feet or more.

The Ventura County Operational Area Tsunami Evacuation Plan (prepared by Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services with the assistance and input of the Cities of Oxnard, Ventura and Port Hueneme, as well as many other agencies and jurisdictions) has identified areas most likely to be affected by tsunamis, and it includes evacuation routes, and potential reunification areas for the City of Oxnard.

**In general, in Oxnard, if you are within a mile of the ocean, you may be in a potential tsunami inundation area.**

All low-lying coastal areas, including Mandalay Bay, Oxnard Shores, Hollywood Beach, Channel Island Harbor, Silver Strand, Port Hueneme Harbor, and Ormond Beach can be struck by a tsunami.



### Myths

**Myth:** Many people believe that tsunamis do not happen here.

**Fact:** More than a dozen tsunamis with waves three feet high or more have struck California since 1812. Historical records indicate that a tsunami occurred in the Santa Barbara Channel around 1812.

**Myth:** Many people believe that a tsunami is one giant wave.

**Fact:** Tsunamis can be a single surge of water or a series of waves occurring anywhere from five to 90 minutes apart, and may occur for up to 15 hours after the initial event.

**Myth:** Many people believe that the Channel Islands will serve as a giant "breakwater" and that the Oxnard coast cannot be impacted by a tsunami event.

**Fact:** From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions. Once the wave approaches the shore, it builds in height. The topography of the coastline and the ocean floor will influence the size of the wave. A small tsunami at one beach can be a giant wave a few miles away. Since we have no idea where a tsunami may originate, we cannot presume to be safe from a tsunami simply because we have offshore islands.

**Myth:** Many people believe that tsunami waves are surfable.

**Fact:** Tsunami waves are extremely dangerous and are NOT surfable.



### Emergency Alert System (EAS) Radio Stations

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) includes every radio and TV station as well as all cable companies in Ventura County. They are networked together to provide emergency related information in times of severe weather or other disaster.

Following are the primary local EAS stations:

- KVEN 1450 AM
- KHAY 100.7 FM
- KMLA 103.7 FM (Spanish)

NOAA weather radios are your first alert for tsunami warnings. Tune in to weather radio for more information.

Go to the Ventura County Sheriff's Department Office of Emergency Services (OES) web site for more information on the Ventura County Tsunami Evacuation Plan:

[www.vcsd.org/oes/index.html](http://www.vcsd.org/oes/index.html)

**For more information on  
Disaster Preparedness in Oxnard call:**

**(805) 385-7717**



THE CITY OF OXNARD

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## EMERGENCY INFORMATION



# How to Prepare, React and Survive

If you are near the beach and you feel an earthquake, remember the important advice below.

# TSUNAMI

## EVACUATION ROUTES & REUNIFICATION AREAS

### WATCH vs. WARNING

The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center will issue a statement to inform the public that an earthquake has occurred and there may be potential for a tsunami.

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a tsunami hazard:

<b>WARNING</b>	→	Inundating wave possible	→	Full evacuation suggested
<b>WATCH</b>	→	Danger level not yet known	→	Stay alert for more information
<b>ADVISORY</b>	→	Strong currents likely	→	Stay away from the shore

### WARNING SIGNS

**Know the signs and take responsibility for your own safety!**

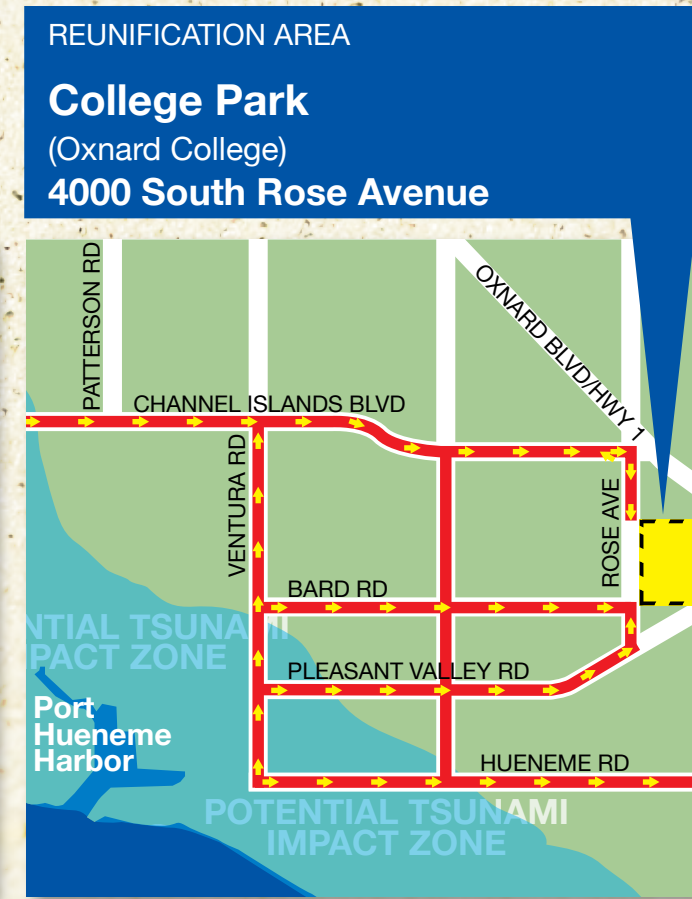
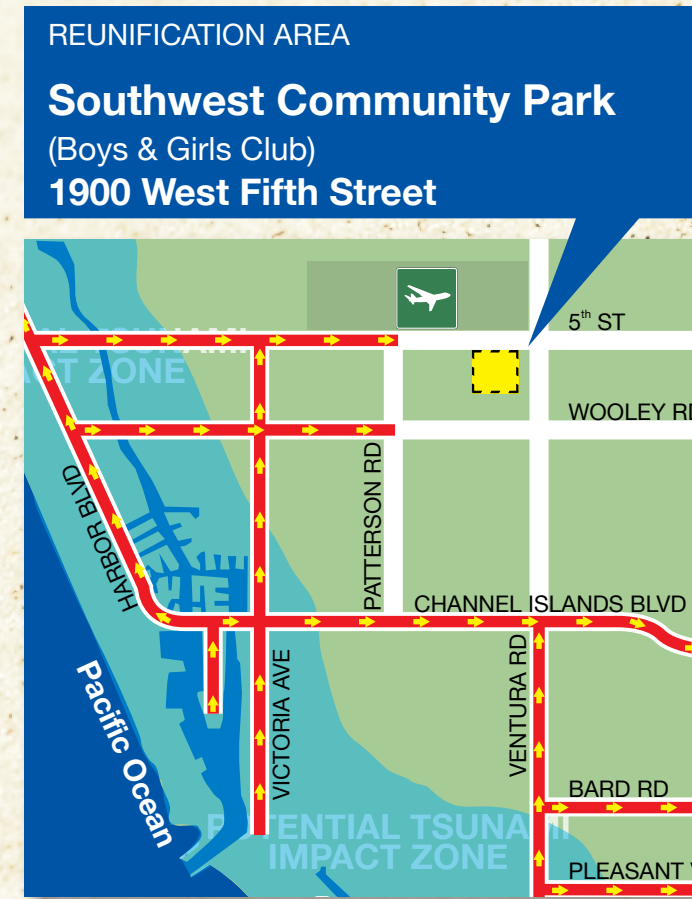
- SHAKE**  
Strong shaking for 15-20 seconds or more may be felt in coastal regions prior to a tsunami.
- DROP**  
As a tsunami approaches shorelines, the sea level may, but not always, recede/drop dramatically before returning as a fast-moving wall of water.
- ROAR**  
A roaring sound may precede the arrival of a tsunami

### WHAT TO DO

**IF YOU ARE WITHIN A MILE OF THE BEACH AND FEEL STRONG SHAKING, IMMEDIATELY MOVE INLAND OR TO HIGHER GROUND.**

- WALK**  
Immediately walk inland at least one mile or to higher ground. Roads will become congested if everyone tries to drive. **DO NOT** wait for officials to issue a warning! **DO NOT** go towards the water to watch a tsunami! If you can see the wave, you are too close to escape it.  
For mariners in shallow waters or harbors like the Channel Islands Harbor, move to deep water (600 feet or greater) if there is enough time and weather conditions are suitable.

- WAIT**  
Stay away from coastal or low-lying areas until local emergency officials have issued an "all clear" notice. Waves may continue to arrive for several hours.



Potential Tsunami inundation area (based on a 10M/33ft wave)
  Preidentified Reunification Area
  Direction of egress. All lanes of traffic will be directed North or East

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North on Victoria Ave.</li> <li>• North on Harbor Blvd.</li> <li>• East on Wooley Rd.</li> <li>• East on Fifth St.</li> <li>• East on Gonzales Rd.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North on Ventura Rd.</li> <li>• East on Chanel Islands Blvd</li> <li>• East on Bard Rd.</li> <li>• East on Pleasant Valley Rd.</li> <li>• East on Hueneme Rd.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Emergency information and assistance will be available at the preidentified reunification areas.