

TSUNAMI WARNING ARRANGEMENTS WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT

1. An official warning will come from the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management to local councils and emergency services via pager, txt and email.
2. Waimakariri District Council will then pass relevant information from the warning to our CDEM volunteers teams (we have teams in Waikuku, Woodend and Pines-Kairaki); the North Canterbury managers of NZ Fire Service, NZ Police and Waimakariri-Ashley Coastguard; and other key partner and support agencies.
3. If tsunami activity is expected to reach our coastline the information to our response teams will cover one of the following:
 - Tell people to stay out of the water and off the beach; or
 - Activate their teams to start evacuating people out of the areas that we think might be affected by tsunami flooding. We always wait for advice from a New Zealand expert panel in tsunami assessment to get a rough estimate of this.
 - When evacuations are ordered:
 - Radio and TV broadcasts will warn the general public - this is normally done at a national level (for TV and radio) and at a Canterbury regional level (for radio).
 - We will use NZ Fire Service, NZ Police, volunteer rural fire force and CDEM vehicles with Public Address Systems and sirens to tell people where to evacuate to.
 - CDEM volunteer teams on foot will go door-to-door with the same message.
 - CDEM centres at Waikuku Beach Hall and Pines Beach Fire Depot will act as central points of information and coordination.
 - Evacuated people can go to CDEM centres at Woodend Community Centre and Kaiapoi Community Centre.
 - CDEM centres in Rangiora will be used if necessary and publicized at that time.
 - Waimakariri District Council will provide regular information updates on its website (www.waimakariri.govt.nz).
4. People and community organisations should:
 - Listen to radio and TV and follow instructions of emergency service or CDEM staff.
 - All businesses and community organisations should have fire evacuation plans for their buildings that ultimately get occupants outside to a safe assembly area.
 - The Council can then be contacted on 03-311 8900 for further instructions/information on the tsunami (or any other civil defence emergency) and where to move occupants to.
5. There are no known faults in Pegasus Bay that scientists think could cause a tsunami – the biggest tsunami threat for Pegasus Bay is from across the Pacific Ocean, for which we have around 12 hours warning. But, as for anywhere in New Zealand, if you are on the beach or in a low lying coastal area and you feel strong ground shaking that lasts for more than 20 seconds you should move inland or to higher ground immediately. In the unlikely event that the earthquake is offshore and has created a tsunami there will not be time for an official warning – the earthquake is your warning