

TSUNAMI BOATER SAFETY

Prior to arrival of the March 11, 2011 tsunami along the California coast, many boat owners took their boats offshore without adequate supplies or knowledge of how long they would need to stay offshore. As a result, boaters tried to re-enter harbors too early, while dangerous tsunami conditions still existed. They put themselves and harbor personnel at risk of injury and death. If you do not have a long-term supplies of essential disaster preparedness items in your boat, DO NOT attempt to take your boat offshore.

Secure your boat to the dock and leave the dock area before the tsunami arrives.

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A tsunami is a series of water surges usually caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. These can cause strong, dangerous currents inside harbors and bays.

TSUNAMIS CAN TRICK YOU!

- The first surge may not be the largest.
- It is not unusual for tsunami surges to continue for days afterwards and in some cases much longer.
- Just when you think it is all over, another very large surge may come.

2 ways to know if a tsunami is coming:

Natural Warnings

On shore: GROUND SHAKING, a LOUD OCEAN ROAR, or the WATER RECEDING UNUSUALLY FAR exposing the sea floor.

On the water: You may still feel the earthquake through the hull of your boat. You could see a rapid and extreme shift to an outgoing tide.

Official Warnings

On shore: You may hear an outdoor siren.

On the water: You may receive a Tsunami Advisory or Warning on your marine VHF radio's CHANNEL 16 or weather frequency (as long as your radio has the Alert feature).

There are a number of TSUNAMI HAZARDS that could affect boats/boaters:

- Sudden water-level fluctuations Boats that hit bottom as water level drops
- Strong and unpredictable currents
- Tsunami bores and amplified waves
- Eddies/whirlpools
- Drag on large keeled boat
- Collision with boats, docks, and debris

What to do if you receive a warning?

IF ON LAND

or tied up at the dock
Leave your boat and go to high ground on foot as soon as possible. You don't have time to save your boat in this situation and could die if you try to do so If you are on the water but very near shore

IF IN SHALLOW WATER

If you can beach or dock your boat and get to high ground on foot, then this is your best chance. If that is not possible, head to deep water as quickly as possible.

IF IN DEEP WATER

or very close, take your vessel further offshore beyond a depth of at least 100 meters (328 feet).

After a major earthquake

For a locally-generated tsunami from a major earthquake, there will be no time to motor a boat into deep water because waves can come ashore within minutes. Leave your boat at the pier and physically move to higher ground.

Should you take your boat OFFSHORE?

The answer to this question depends on:

1. The SIZE of the tsunami.
2. How much TIME you have.
3. The PREPAREDNESS of the boat/
4. The WEATHER at sea could be as dangerous as the tsunami itself.

Note for trailer boat owners:

Expect congested boat ramps and remember that you have to get your boat to the trailer, out of the water, and out of the tsunami zone before the tsunami arrives.

For more information on the Tsunami risk in this area please visit www.srd.ca/tsunami-mapping

ENTERING



Strathcona

REGIONAL DISTRICT

