



## Know the risks



### **Tsunamis:**

Tsunami is Japanese for “Harbour Wave.” Tsunamis are made up of a series of waves, not just one big one, caused by a displacement of water beneath the ocean floor. Usually this is due to an earthquake but can also be caused by an underwater landslide that is not earthquake related. The time between wave crests can range between minutes to hours, and in height from a few centimetres to several metres. In the deep ocean, waves can travel about 800 kilometres per hour – that’s 10 times faster than cars drive on the highway and more than 20 times faster than a BC ferry!

**WARNING SIGNS:** The first warning sign of a tsunami is typically an earthquake. If you feel an earthquake and you are near the coast, the earthquake is your signal to move to high ground as soon as it is safe to do so. Another common tsunami warning sign is a quick retreat of the ocean or a quick rise in water level. During the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004) the sea retreating caused some people to go down to the beach out of curiosity. Surprised by odd sights like an empty beach and flopping fish, they unknowingly put themselves at great risk. Never go to the ocean to watch a tsunami – it can travel faster than you can run.

For more information on tsunamis, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Website.

For more information on how to prepare for a tsunami, visit Know the Risks > Tsunamis on PreparedBC.