



THE TSUNAMI SIRENS ARE TESTED TWICE YEARLY

The tests occur at MIDDAY on the SUNDAY changeover to and from daylight saving.

Make a note of these testing times in your diaries and calendars.

The testing sequence will be:

- Alert signal for 1 minute,
- 15 second pause
- Evacuate signal for 1 minute,
- 15 second pause
- All clear signal for 1 minute
- TEST COMPLETE

The test helps us confirm the sirens are in good working order and identify any issues in operation and coverage.

RADIO FREQUENCIES IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

National Radio	AM675 or FM101.7
More FM	FM 92.1
Newstalk ZB	AM1098
Classic Hits	FM 97.7
Radio Live	FM 99.3

Be sure to check beforehand which station gives YOU the best reception

TV1 and TV3 will also broadcast emergency messages.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Tsunami warning sirens have been installed at Amberley Beach and Leithfield Beach.

The sirens are pole mounted outside the community centres at both settlements where they can be positioned to maximise reception.

In the first instance these sirens will be triggered manually, though technology is available to allow them to be remotely triggered via radio or phone in the future.

A core group of community leaders have been trained to activate the sirens when necessary.

While the sirens are predominantly designed to notify the public of any tsunami threat they may also be used to alert the public to other potential emergencies.

Questions? Talk to our

FOR MORE INFO!

Emergency Management Officer
ALLAN GRIGG
tel: 03 314 8816
email: allan.grigg@hurunui.govt.nz

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is most commonly caused by an upthrust of the ocean floor and massive release of energy following a large offshore earthquake, coastal landslide or island volcanic eruption.

Most tsunami are small and go unnoticed, however, occasionally large tsunami are generated and can be hugely destructive.

The first sign of a tsunami is often a rapid change in sea level or activity – which is then followed by the arrival of the first tsunami surge.

The threat to Hurunui

The most likely threat is a distant tsunami generated from a large earthquake off the coast of South America, or other locations around the edge of the Pacific Ocean. These tsunami generally take at least 12 hours to reach New Zealand, so warnings are able to be given.

The district, and particularly along the northern coastline, is also open to local threats from large earthquakes off the Kaikoura/Marlborough/ eastern North Island coast, or an underwater landslide into the Kaikoura Canyon.

Because the source may be as little as 30 minutes from our

coastline - there may not be enough time for an official warning or sounding of the sirens.

IF YOU FEEL A STRONG EARTHQUAKE that lasts for more than several seconds, or you SEE THE SEA BEHAVING STRANGELY, you should MOVE AWAY FROM THE COAST or to higher ground IMMEDIATELY - DO NOT WAIT FOR THE SIRENS.

It is unlikely tsunami surges of more than four metres high would ever reach us, but the impact will largely depend on the tide level at the time.

THE THREAT IS SMALL - BUT CAN'T BE IGNORED

In February 2010, a series of tsunami surges generated by a large earthquake in Chile did strike the Canterbury coast - raising the sea level in Lyttelton Harbour by 2.2 metres in less than an hour .



KEEP THIS INFORMATION SOMEWHERE SAFE!
It will help you in the event the tsunami warning signals are activated.



The surges breached the shores of the harbour and bays on Banks Peninsula, flooding paddocks, submerging jetties, and washing across roads and damaging boats.

Fortunately they arrived around low tide, saving coastal Christchurch from damage.

Be prepared!

Make a plan for the shortest and safest route to reach safe ground if you need to evacuate.

Know where essential documents and medicines are that you may need to take with you.

Have a charged torch and battery-operated radio handy.

In most cases, you will only have to travel a short distance to reach safe ground, so where possible avoid using your car.

Some important DO's and DON'ts:

- DON'T panic if you hear the siren
- LEAVE all beaches immediately
- If it is an ALERT signal – TURN ON YOUR RADIO
- If the signal is to EVACUATE - make your way immediately to safe ground
- LEAVE your car behind, if you can.
- DON'T return until you hear the all clear.

Consider elderly neighbours in your family evacuation plan.

Be aware!

The tsunami sirens don't sound like the traditional "air raid" sound. Instead they use Morse Code, to distribute audible warnings – alert, evacuation and all clear.

- **DASH - DASH - DOT - DOT -** tells people to leave beaches, tune into the radio for information, and be prepared to evacuate. THIS IS THE 'ALERT' SIGNAL.
- **DOT - DOT - DOT -** requires people to evacuate immediately to the nearest safe high ground. THIS IS THE 'WARNING' SIGNAL'

Safe ground is AT LEAST A KILOMETRE away from the shoreline. For Amberley Beach this would be beyond 'the terrace', and in Leithfield Beach across state highway one.

You should expect to be away from home for at least a couple of hours if evacuated. Civil Defence would provide support as soon as practicable (but this may take up to several hours).

- **A CONTINUOUS UNINTERRUPTED TONE** signals the ALL CLEAR. People can then return to their homes.

The sirens are designed to start at a low noise level and increase to full volume over the first four or five repetitions. This gives people in close proximity to a siren warning to cover their ears while moving away to a safe distance.