# Sea Kayak Guides Alliance of BC



## **Earthquake and Tsunami Information and Notification**

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The following information is for reference only. A kayak guide must make informed decisions based upon location, geography, safe-zones, company policies and other factors.

**Earthquakes** are caused by the sudden movement of the earth's crust. The ground may shake violently causing significant damage.

**Tsunamis**, sometimes incorrectly called 'tidal-waves', are large ocean waves created by earthquakes, undersea landslides, or asteroid impacting the earth. A Tsunami may have devastating consequences to coastal areas. A Tsunami may manifest itself as a series of waves over the course of many hours. The first wave of a Tsunami is often not the largest.

### **Earthquake Notification:**

One can be alerted to a earthquake in a number of ways:

- A By feeling the shaking of the earth
- Media (TV, Radio, Internet)
  - Text Message Notification
  - Natural Resources Canada, will, free of charge, send automatic <u>text message</u> notifications of earth quake events, via Twitter. It is easy to sign-up.
    - To receive notifications, simply text "follow CANADAquakes" to 21212 (Canada) or 40404 (USA)

### **Tsunami Information:**

A Tsunami may be generated after any large earthquake. In the event of an earthquake, consider moving immediately to high ground.

- After a locally generated earthquake, a tsunami may arrive within 10-20 minutes. A warning may not be broadcast.
- ▲ The outer coasts of British Columbia are more susceptible to tsunami effects
- A Generally sea kayakers operate in near-shore waters which may be effected by a tsunami

#### **Tsunami Notification:**

- △ VHF Tsunami Advisory Bulletins may be broadcast on ch 16 or WX channels.
- ▲ News Media local radio (FM/AM)
- ▲ Internet: http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/ West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Information
  - Text Message Notification
  - The National Weather Service, National Tsunami Warning Center will issue automated text messages via Twitter.
    - To receive Tsunami notifications, simply text "follow NWS NTWC" to 21212 (Canada) or 40404 (USA)

## From Emergency Management BC - Tsunami Information:

https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/be-tsunami-smart/

- **Tsunami Warning:** A tsunami exists (or *may* exist and the travel time to any portion of the BC coast is under three hours). Intended to cause recipients to consider activating local evacuation plans.
- **Tsunami Advisory:** Strong currents likely. Stay away from shore.
- **Tsunami Watch:** An earthquake has occurred which is capable of generating a tsunami and the travel time to any portion of the BC coast is more than three hours. Intended to cause emergency personnel to be on standby.
- **Tsunami Information Statement:** A major earthquake in the Pacific region, where a damaging tsunami is not expected to reach BC.
- **Tsunami Cancellation:** Cancels all previous advisories; the threat of tsunami damage has ended.
- \* Tsunami All Clear: No further tsunami waves are expected and local authorities may issue their own "all clear".