



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
Public Information Office

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Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release PST
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San Francisco Fire Department

Tsunami Preparedness Week 2019

California is subject to a tsunami at any time, whether locally generated or from a distance. A tsunami is a series of waves that may last for hours, or possibly days, and are typically caused by undersea earthquakes.

The last tsunami to impact California was from the 2011 9.0-magnitude Tohoku (Japan) earthquake which caused more than \$100 million in damage along the California coast, with waves arriving for more than 24 hours.

Fortunately, we can prepare to survive and recover from the next major tsunami. The 2019 California [Tsunami Preparedness](#) Week is March 25-29. Everyone, everywhere in California is encouraged to [register their participation](#), get to [know their zone](#), and [spread the word](#).

San Francisco Firefighters will be walking the Tsunami Routes in San Francisco in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management handing out informational brochures and speaking with the public that we encounter during Tsunami Preparedness Week. We encourage you to check the following sites out, and become prepared as well:

1. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/california/>
2. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/knowyourzone/>
3. <https://www.tsunamizone.org/graphics/>
4. <https://www.sf72.org/hazard/tsunamis>
5. <https://sfdem.org/public-alerts-0>
6. <https://nextdoor.com/agency-post/ca/san-francisco/san-francisco-department-of-emergency-management/tsunami-preparedness-101-10266691/>
7. <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Pages/Tsunami/Maps/SanFrancisco.aspx>

Feel free to print and share the educational materials below:



Ocean Safety.pdf



Coastal and Cliff
Safety.pdf



Tsunami Safety.pdf

For more information, contact Lt. Jonathan Baxter at: firepio@sfgov.org



Two ways to know if a Tsunami is coming

Natural Warning

If you observe the following warning signs, a tsunami may be coming:

1. Strong ground shaking
2. A loud ocean roar
3. water receding unusually far exposing the sea floor

A tsunami may arrive within minutes and may last for several hours. Stay away from coastal areas until officials say that it is safe to return.

Official Warning

You may be informed by officials of a tsunami warning by:

1. Radio/National Weather Service Radio
2. Television
3. Telephone/Cell phone/Text message
4. Door-to-Door contact by Emergency Responders
5. Outdoor Sirens

Follow directions provided by emergency personnel. You may be asked to leave the beach and low-lying coastal areas.

Text alerts to 888777 for watches and warnings for tsunamis, flooding and Citywide post-disaster information. Or go to <https://www.sf72> for real-time information during a disaster.

Tsunami Safety Tips

A Tsunami can strike at anytime. Are you prepared to survive a Tsunami?



Evacuation

Before evacuating you should know if you are in a hazard zone and consider possible hazards that may exist along your evacuation route.

- Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
- COUNT** how long the earthquake lasts. If you feel more than 20 seconds of very strong shaking and are in a tsunami hazard zone, evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are on the beach or in a harbor and feel an earthquake-no matter how small-immediately move inland or to high ground.
- GO ON FOOT.** Roads and bridges may be damaged.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- If evacuation is impossible, go to the third floor or higher floor of a sturdy building or climb a tree. This should only be used as a last resort.



The steps you take to prepare will help you during the recovery process

- Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
- Learn your recommended tsunami evacuation route.
- Identify safety zones near you.
- Get a weather radio that can alert you when you are in a Tsunami zone, even if it's turned off.
- Prepare an evacuation kit that includes:**
 - Important documents
 - Medications
 - Portable radio/Weather Service radio with batteries
 - Water and snacks
 - Warm clothes-Silver blankets(Alerts officials to your location)
- Decide where to meet if you become separated
- Designate an out of state relative to call
- Discuss plan with family members
- Make a plan with family to help those with mobility issues
- Plan to bring pet food and supplies



Ocean Safety



Beach Safety Tips

1. Keep children within easy reach
2. Be aware of changing tides and weather conditions.
3. Watch for unexpected large waves that wash farther up the shore.
4. Watch for floating logs and debris.
5. Stay off rocks in and around the shores.
6. Call 911 in an emergency.

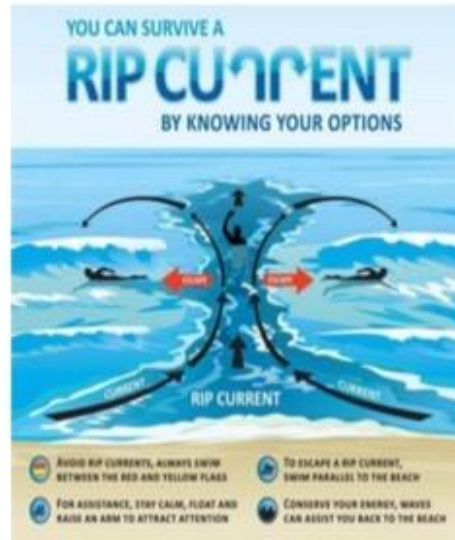
Never turn your back on the ocean!

For More Information about tidal conditions

<https://www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>

Ocean Safety Tips

When in doubt don't go out.
 Check your local tidal conditions before visiting the beach.
Know before you go.



IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- Stay calm, don't fight the current.
- Swim out of the current, parallel to the shore and once out of the current, swim back to shore.
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance.



Super Fast Facts Designed For You

- Even in the summertime, the water at ocean beach is between a frigid 50-55 degrees Fahrenheit. Hypothermia can set in as quickly as 10 minutes.
- Sneakerwaves move in closer to shore than other waves and can catch beach goers off guard.
- Shorebreaks are waves that break directly on to steep sloping beaches and add to the risk of Ocean Beach.
- Shorebreaker waves can lead to serious neck and spinal injuries that can leave you paralyzed for life.
- Bonfires are allowed on Ocean Beach between March 1st-October 31st. Curfew for all bonfires is 930PM.
- Today Ocean Beach is one of the most popular surf spots in Northern California.
- The wetsuit was invented in San Francisco!



Coastal and Cliff Safety



Coastal and Cliff safety Tips

1. Some cliff edges are unstable and can break away.
2. Never stand on a cliff's edge and abide by the signs warning of unstable ground.
3. Keep your dog leashed to prevent your dog from becoming trapped on a cliff.
4. **NEVER GO ALONE!** Bring along a friend and utilize a buddy system in case of an emergency.
5. Do not attempt to climb up or down cliffs unless you are properly equipped and trained to do so.

For More Information on coastal safety

<https://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/safety.htm>

Costal and Cliff Safety Awareness

San Francisco has a beautiful coast line. Are you prepared in the case of an emergency?



Cliff Safety

Basic safety tips to remember while you are exploring the coast

- Stay away from the edge.
- KNOW YOUR LOCATION!** In the event of an emergency, knowing where you are will aide emergency responders trying to locate you or your pet.
- Don't attempt to climb cliffs as a shortcut.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Be responsible and do not take unnecessary risks or allow people in your group do so.
- Watch where you are going.
- Pay attention to the warning signs. They are there for a reason.



Super Fast Facts Designed For You

- If you see cracks in the ground do not go beyond them. This indicates very unstable ground that could break away at any moment.
- If your pet becomes trapped on the cliff. **DO NOT** try to rescue your pet yourself. **CALL 911.**
- If you are walking along the beach near the cliffs, know how long it will take to get back to reduce your risk of becoming trapped.



KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH!