

Tsunami Evacuation Maps Project– FAQs

1. Why has the Hawke's Bay Civil Defence decided to have Hawke's Bay's tsunami risk reevaluated?

During the last decade, there have been a number of significant tsunami events in the Pacific region. The most notable was the March 2011 Japanese tsunami.

The Japanese tsunami changed how the scientific world understood large subduction earthquakes occurred.

This new information and knowledge prompted a review of New Zealand's national tsunami risk assessment, last undertaken in 2005. An expert report shows Hawke's Bay's key tsunami risk areas.

This is the first time Hawke's Bay has comprehensive tsunami evacuation maps for the entire region's coastline.

2. How do these maps help Hawke's Bay?

Although the likelihood of a large tsunami is considered rare, it is important to be prepared and know where to go and what to do in the event of an emergency. These maps allow Hawke's Bay Civil Defence to prepare best practice plans for affected areas.

These maps also help each community in Hawke's Bay prepare community response plans which work for them, delivering accurate and tailored response plans – as opposed to a one-size fits all approach.

3. What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of waves generated by the rapid displacement of water. Tsunamis are typically produced by earthquakes that cause uplift or subsidence on the sea floor, but can also be caused by coastal or submarine landslides, volcanic eruptions and meteor impacts. They can travel at speeds in excess of 500km/h in the open ocean.

4. How will I know if Hawke's Bay experiences a tsunami?

There is no substitute for natural warnings, if you feel a large earthquake that lasts longer than a minute or difficult to stand up in, evacuate from identified risk zones as identified in the maps.

In all other scenarios, Civil Defence will issue official warnings via radio or TV broadcasts and in some areas special tsunami sirens.

5. Who is most at risk of tsunami risk in Hawke's Bay?

Hawke's Bay's position on the Pacific Ocean means there are risks of tsunami from both local, regional and distance sources for our coastal communities. The East Coast of New Zealand has been identified with a significant tsunami risk because of our subduction zone marked by the Hikurangi Trough.

6. How do I read the maps?

If you feel a large earthquake that lasts longer than a minute or difficult to stand up in, evacuate all zones. For other situations Civil Defence will have sufficient time to provide information on which zones should be evacuated and where evacuation points would be.

There are three different evacuation zones - red, orange and yellow. Not all maps have every zone as land may be sufficiently high for the tsunami not to affect the area.

The red zone represents the beach, foreshore and marine environment close to shore, which would be evacuated most often when experiencing threat to the Hawke's Bay coastline.

The orange zone would be evacuated by Civil Defence officials if it were established that a credible land threat would affect Hawke's Bay from a distant source tsunami, such as from Peru.

The yellow zone represents the maximum area to evacuate should a large earthquake close to New Zealand. It is likely that there would be insufficient time to provide an official warning and people should self-evacuate once the earthquake has been felt.

7. How do I find out how far inland a tsunami might go, and where is safe?

All locations outside of the mapped area are evacuation safe zones.

8. Has the East Coast of New Zealand been hit by a tsunami before?

Since 1840, 10 tsunamis have been recorded on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand with wave heights ranging from <0.1 to 10m. The west coast of South America is recognised as the most frequent distant source of tsunamis affecting Hawke's Bay.

9. What can I do to be better prepared for a tsunami event?

Keep up to date with your Civil Defence network and Community Response Plans in your community.

Evacuation maps can be found on our Hawke's Bay Civil Defence website

www.hbemergency.govt.nz

Find the map for your neighbourhood, and make sure your whole family memorises it.

Facebook: Like "Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group"

Twitter: Follow [@hbemergency](https://twitter.com/hbemergency)

10. What is a Community Response Plan and how does it fit in with the tsunami evacuation maps?

A Community Response Plan (CRP) is a community-based response plan that is activated by the community in a Civil Defence emergency.

These plans are built around the risk zones identified in the tsunami evacuation maps. Hawke's Bay Civil Defence is updating all CRPs to reflect this new information. Through the combined information of the tsunami evacuation maps and the CRP for your area you will have a complete guide of what you need to do in an emergency or evacuation situation.

For more information on Community Response Plans visit www.hbemergency.govt.nz

11. Is my house or workplace in the evacuation areas?

You can visit the Hawke's Bay Hazard Portal <http://www.hbemergency.govt.nz/hazards/portal> to find more information on tsunami inundation areas.

12. My property is within the tsunami inundation area so will this affect my property value?

Tsunami inundation and evacuation zone mapping has been completed for a number of areas in NZ already including Gisborne, Wellington, Auckland and Bay of Plenty and property values do not appear to have been affected by this information to date. Although sometimes the initial release of any hazard risk information can temporarily affect property values.

13. Does my insurance cover Tsunami?

Residential property damage caused by tsunami is covered by Earthquake Commission (EQC) insurance providing you already have house and/or contents insurance. Insurance policies do vary from company to company so insurance policy holders should check their policies for cover. However no house or contents insurance means no EQC cover. If you do have insurance and property gets damaged, lodge a claim by calling 0800 326 243 or visit www.eqc.govt.nz

14. Will this information go the property file (LIM)?

These evacuation zones and tsunami modelling will be used to inform current and future land use planning, with decision to be made by Councils and wider communities. National guidelines recommend this sort of tsunami modelling should be noted in LIMs or in hazard registers held by councils.

15. Where are boats safe in a tsunami?

When there is time for warnings to be given, ships and boat owners will be advised what action is advisable. Tsunami are often most destructive in bays and harbours, not just because of the waves but because of the violent currents they generate in local waterways. Tsunami are least destructive in deep, open ocean waters, so boats and ships should head for the deepest water possible with a minimum recommendation to be outside the 50 metre mark.