

Tsunami

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Tsunami Latest News

A powerful 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula recently, triggering tsunami warnings across the northern Pacific, including Alaska, Hawaii, and down to New Zealand.

About Tsunami

- A tsunami is a **series of waves generated by a large and sudden displacement of the ocean.**
- Tsunamis can have **devastating** and wide-ranging **effects, especially in coastal regions.**
- The word tsunami is composed of the Japanese words "tsu" (which means harbor) and "nami" (which means "wave").
- **Large earthquakes** below or near the ocean floor are the **most common cause** (about **80% of all known tsunamis are triggered by earthquakes**), but **landslides, volcanic activity**, certain types of weather, and **meteorites can also cause tsunamis.**
 - Not all **earthquakes** cause tsunamis; they **must be strong and shallow** (at least 6.5 magnitude and less than 70 km from the Earth's surface), and **move the seafloor vertically.**

- Tsunamis **radiate outward in all directions** from their source and can **move across entire ocean basins**, around islands, and into bays, sounds, and up rivers.
- **Out in the depths of the ocean**, tsunami **waves do not dramatically increase in height**.
- But **as the waves travel inland**, they build up to higher and **higher heights as the depth of the ocean decreases**.
- The **speed** of tsunami waves **depends on ocean depth** rather than the distance from the source of the wave.
- Tsunami waves may **travel as fast as jet planes over deep waters**, only **slowing down** when **reaching shallow waters**.
 - Tsunamis can have **heights of up to 30 m (98 ft)** and reach **speeds of 950 km per hour**.
- It is **hard to see** that a **tsunami is approaching**. The most **obvious sign** is **when coastal water retreats** just before the waves reach the shore. This is **actually the trough of the wave following behind**.

Source: TOI

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