

HAZARDS AND THREATS

TSUNAMI(S) TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

LEVELS OF TSUNAMI WARNINGS:

- **Tsunami Warning (Highest level of the tsunami alert system)**
- **Tsunami Watch (Second level of the tsunami alert system)**
- **Tsunami Advisory (Third level of the tsunami alert system)**

Tsunami Warning (Highest level of the tsunami alert system):

- ✓ Tsunami Warning is the highest level of the tsunami alert system.
- ✓ Tsunami Warnings are issued due to the imminent threat of a tsunami from a large undersea earthquake or following confirmation that a potentially destructive tsunami is underway.
- ✓ They may initially be based only on seismic or geological information as a means of providing the earliest possible alert. Warnings advise that appropriate actions be taken in response to the tsunami threat.
- ✓ Such actions could include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas and the movement of boats and ships out of harbors to deep water. Warnings are updated at least hourly or as conditions warrants to continue, expand, restrict, or end the warning.

Tsunami Watch (Second level of the tsunami alert system):

- ✓ Tsunami Watch is the second level of the alert system.
- ✓ Tsunami Watches are issued by the Tsunami Warning Centers based on seismic and/or geological information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway. It is issued as a means of providing an advance alert to areas that could be impacted by destructive tsunami waves.
- ✓ Watches are updated at least hourly to continue them, expand their coverage, upgrade them to a Warning, or end the alert.
- ✓ A Watch for a particular area may be included in the text of the message that disseminates a Warning for another area.

Tsunami Advisory (Third level of the tsunami alert system):

- ✓ Tsunami Advisory is the third level of the alert system.
- ✓ Tsunami Advisories are issued to coastal populations within areas not currently in either warning or watch status when a tsunami warning has been issued for another region of the same ocean. An Advisory indicates that an area is either outside the current warning and watch regions or that the tsunami poses no danger to that area.

- ✓ The Tsunami Warning Center(s) issuing the Advisory will continue to monitor the event, issuing updates at least hourly. As conditions warrant, the Advisory will either be continued, upgraded to a watch or warning, or ended.

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