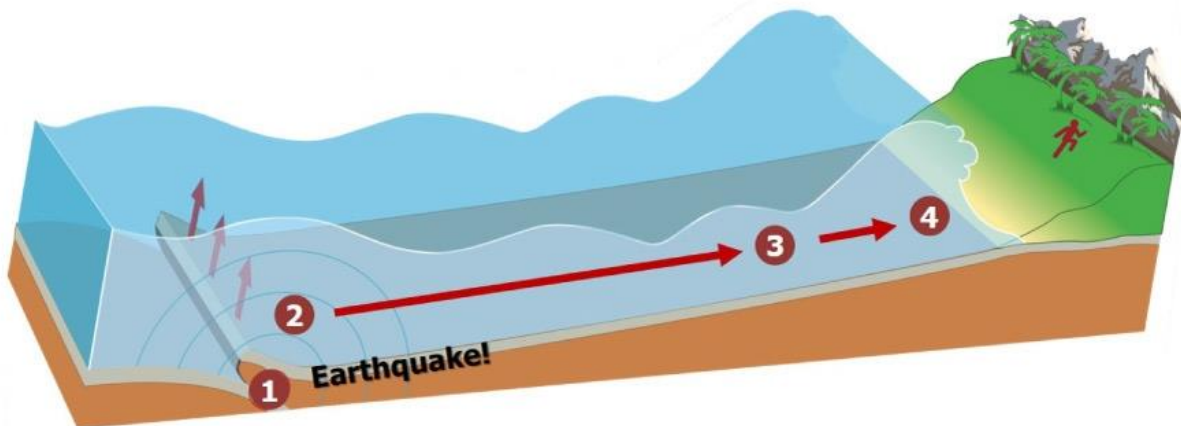


TSUNAMIS can be very powerful!

A tsunami is different from the typical waves you see at the beach. Most ocean waves are caused by wind blowing across the sea surface. Tsunamis are caused when an earthquake or other event like a landslide moves the entire water column from the seafloor to the ocean surface. This produces a wave or surge of water that moves out in all directions, and these surges are capable of impacting areas far from where they began. This all means that tsunamis can be much more powerful and travel much faster than typical wind-driven waves. Tsunamis are also known to travel faster in deeper water which is how they are able to travel from Japan to the California coastline in about 10 hours.

How tsunamis are created...

1. A plate shift abruptly, causing an earthquake and displacing water.
2. Waves are generated and move out in all directions across the ocean, some traveling faster than 500 mph.
3. Waves enter shallow water. They compress, their speed slows, and they build in height.
4. Wave height increases and associated currents intensify, becoming threats to life and property.



There are both natural and official warnings for tsunamis.

Natural warnings, like the ground shaking for a long time, are important signs to pay attention as they could indicate a tsunami arrival within minutes. The best thing to do is to head to high ground and stay there.

Official warnings are tools used when we have time to prepare for approaching tsunamis. These are issued by the Tsunami Warning Centers and carried out by local officials. Register for City of Arcata CodeRED system and the County of Humboldt Humboldt ALERT system to receive emergency notifications from local officials in Arcata and Humboldt County!

Three top tips to help get you prepared.

Earthquakes and tsunamis can be alarming and disorienting, but we can take small steps to be more prepared emotionally and mentally so when a tsunami occurs we have the muscle memory to know what to do.

1. Go to high ground or inland—shaking is your tsunami warning
 - a. Stay there—tsunami waves may arrive for hours
2. Practice earthquake and tsunami drills
3. Sign up for emergency alerts