

- Many will survive the earthquake:

Many will survive the earthquake but watch out for the tsunami that follows. It can kill more people than the earthquake.

- Obey the Natural signs of an approaching tsunamis

An earthquake, a roaring sound, water receding and animal behaviors are signs of an approaching tsunami.

- Obey Official Warnings

Do not take warnings for granted or assume that danger is over.

- Expect many waves

The next wave may be bigger, and the tsunami may last for hours.

- Head for High Ground and Stay there

Move uphill or at least inland, away from the coast.

- Abandon Belongings

Save your life, not your possessions!

- Don't count on the roads

When fleeing a tsunami caused by a nearby earthquake, you may find roads broken or blocked.

What to do *DURING* an approaching tsunami...

RUN INLAND OR TO HIGHER GROUND!



Don't wait for official evacuation orders!

Immediately leave low-lying coastal areas!

Move inland to higher ground!

RUN if you see a tsunami coming!

If there are warnings, take them seriously!



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- Go to an upper floor or roof of a building

Only if trapped and unable to reach high ground, go to an upper story of a strong building or get on its roof.

- Climb a tree

As a last resort, climb up a strong tree if trapped on low ground.

- Climb onto something that floats

If swept up by a tsunami, look for something to use as a raft.

- Expect the waves to leave debris

A tsunami will leave behind sand, the remains of houses, and bodies.

- Expect earthquakes to lower or uplift coastal land

A large earthquake can leave nearby coastal areas lowered, allowing tidal water to flood them.

- Expect company

Shelter your neighbors



Know your tsunami facts!

1. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. When you know that an earthquake has occurred, stand by for a tsunami emergency message.
2. An earthquake in your area is one of nature's tsunami warning signals. Do not stay in low-lying coastal areas after a strong earthquake has been felt.
3. A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves carrying a massive volume of water that can flood and inundate land for hours. The first wave may not be the largest. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-science Department.
4. A small tsunami at one point on the shore can be extremely large a few kilometers away. Don't let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
5. Boats and canoes are safer from tsunami damage while in the deep ocean rather than moored in a harbor. Don't try to take your boat out to sea if the wave is close. Leave your boat at the pier or beach and physically move to higher ground.
6. All warnings to the public must be taken very seriously, even if some are for non-destructive events. The tsunami of May, 1960 killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii because some thought it was just another false alarm.
7. ALL tsunamis are potentially dangerous, do not be fooled if the wave height is low! Do not try to surf a tsunami.
8. During a tsunami emergency, the VMGD, NDMO, police, and other emergency organizations will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation.

Signs of a Tsunami:



1. Strong Earthquake:

Did you FEEL the ground shaking severely? Strong local earthquakes may cause tsunamis.

2. Sea water recedes along coasts

Did you SEE the water receding? As a tsunami approaches shorelines, water may recede from the coast, exposing the ocean floor, reefs, and fishes. Do not go out to collect anything on the reef!

3. A deep roaring sound from the sea

HEAR the roar? You may hear abnormal ocean activity, a wall of water, and approaching tsunami create a loud "roaring" sound similar to that of a train or jet aircraft.

4. Animals behave strangely

Often animals such as birds and dogs behave differently when they sense an approaching tsunami.

Lessons from Bay Martelli 1999



On November 26, 1999, at 13.21 GMT, the central part of Vanuatu, especially the islands of Ambrym and Pentecost experienced a large earthquake with a magnitude Ms 7.5. This was followed by a Tsunami that killed a total of 10 people, tilted Ambrym by 1-1.5m, caused major damages to buildings and other structures such as churches, schools, markets, water tanks and

triggered numerous landslides.

At Bay Martelli, on South Pentecost there were 5 deaths, the whole village was destroyed except the Church. Eyewitnesses observed a sea withdrawal of about 200m. This was then followed by a succession of 3 waves. The water penetrated almost 1km in the bay. The inundation height was about 6 – 7m. The villagers obeyed the natural warnings were able to move into higher ground in time before the tsunami arrived.

