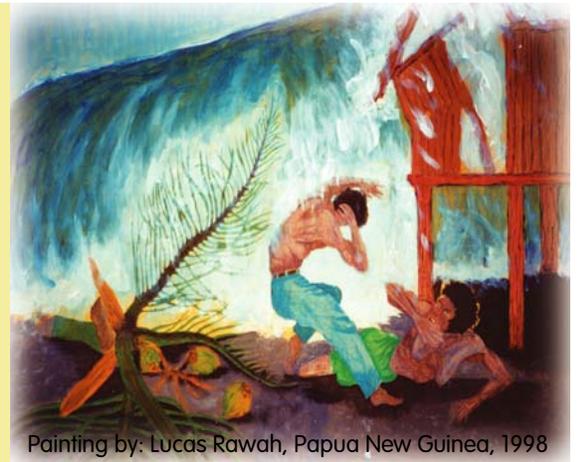


# WHAT TO DO?

## TSUNAMI

### SAFETY RULES

### FOR AMERICAN SAMOA



Painting by: Lucas Rawah, Papua New Guinea, 1998

1. Sooner or later, tsunamis visit every coastline in the Pacific and all oceans. Be prepared and know nature's tsunami warning signs.  
If you are near the shoreline, go inland to higher ground if:
  1. The ground shakes so hard it is difficult to stand,
  2. The water recedes from the shoreline exposing the ocean floor, or
  3. You hear a loud noise like a roar coming from the ocean.
2. All earthquakes do not cause tsunamis, but many do. If you are in a safe location away from the shoreline, and learn an earthquake has occurred, turn on a radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency information.
3. If a tsunami WATCH has been issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, there is a possibility that a tsunami will occur. Stand by for additional information.
4. If a tsunami WARNING has been issued, it means a tsunami has been observed. When an evacuation is necessary, an emergency alert will be issued. If you are near the shoreline, move inland to higher ground or move to the higher floor of a steel-reinforced concrete building. If you are in a safe area, stay put and do not contribute to traffic congestion.
5. 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. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by the ASG Dept. of Homeland Security.
6. Tsunamis can cause rapid changes in water level and unpredictable dangerous currents that are magnified in ports and harbors. Damaging wave activity can continue for many hours following initial tsunami impact. Contact the harbor authority or listen to mariner radio reports. Make sure that conditions in the harbor are safe for navigation and berthing.
7. A small tsunami at one point on the shore can be extremely large a few miles away. Don't let the modest size of one make you lose respect for all.
8. All warnings to the public must be taken very seriously, even if some are for non-destructive tsunamis. The May 1960 tsunami killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii because some thought it was just another false alarm.
9. Never go down to the shore to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave, you are too close to outrun it. Most tsunamis are like flash floods full of debris. Tsunami waves typically do not curl and break, so do not try to surf a tsunami.

TSUNAMI



National Weather Service Office  
Pago Pago Office, American Samoa  
Telephone: (684) 699-9130

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Website:  
<http://www.tsunami.gov>



ASG Dept. of Homeland Security  
Telephone: (684) 699-6481  
(684) 699-3800  
(684) 633-2827

UNESCO/IOC-NOAA International Tsunami Information Center  
Telephone: (808) 725-6050 Email: [itic.tsunami@noaa.gov](mailto:itic.tsunami@noaa.gov)  
Website: <http://www.tsunamiwave.org/>