



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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TSUNAMI AWARENESS WEEK

Friday, March 11th, marks the fifth anniversary of the Japanese Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, which killed 15,000 and triggered the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

Five-thousand miles away, the tsunami also damaged much of the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor and other points along the West Coast. While the Harbor's resilience is a sign of our strength, the event also served as a sign of our vulnerabilities when it comes to tsunamis.

With Tsunami Awareness Week held March 20-26, the County of Santa Cruz' Office of Emergency Services wants to help residents prepare for this threat by encouraging residents to make themselves aware of local tsunami zones, organize group tsunami preparedness events and learn tsunami safety tips.

- Since tsunamis are often preceded by earthquakes, follow earthquake safety tips and pay attention to any tsunami warnings that may follow.
- In the event of a tsunami, go to higher ground and stay there until the threat passes.
- Learn local tsunami zones by going to <http://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov> and clicking on "Tsunami risk."
- Organize school and other group activities such as a tsunami walkouts or boat evacuations. Learn more and register your activities at <http://www.tsunamizone.org/howtoparticipate>.

Tsunami warning signs have been posted around many parts of the County. In addition to encouraging organized preparedness activities, the County is asking members of the public to Tweet a picture of any tsunami zone signs with the hashtag #TsunamiSC.



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Posters explaining the Tōhoku tsunami are available at no cost to teachers and schools. In addition, a limited number of tsunami tote bags are available to participants who Tweet pictures of local tsunami zone signs. Contact Rosemary.Anderson@santacruzcounty.us.