

For Immediate Release
March 11, 2011
03:30 a.m.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

URGENT

TSUNAMI ADVISORY ISSUED FOR PARTS OF COASTAL BC

VICTORIA — As a result of a magnitude 8.9 earthquake in the Pacific Basin near Japan, the Province has issued a tsunami advisory for the following areas of coastal British Columbia:

- Zone A – The North Coast and the Haida Gwaii Islands
- Zone B – The Central Coast including Bella Bella, Bella Coola and Shearwater
- Zone C – The outer west coast of Vancouver Island from Cape Scott to Port Renfrew

Current modeling indicates a low level tsunami has been generated that could impact the above coastal areas of British Columbia creating strong currents in harbours and isolated coastal areas. Local governments in these zones are advised to activate their emergency plans and immediately evacuate marinas, beaches and other areas that are below the normal high tide mark.

Residents in the areas under tsunami advisory should monitor local radio stations for continued emergency information on the tsunami advisory.

There are three tsunami notification levels: watch, advisory and warning. If a tsunami warning is issued, residents in the affected area should evacuate to higher ground.

- A tsunami watch is an early alert issued to areas which may later be impacted by a tsunami.
- A tsunami advisory indicates a tsunami which may produce strong currents and is dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected.
- A tsunami warning indicates that a tsunami may be imminent and that coastal locations in the warned area should prepare for flooding.

The Province continues to receive and monitor reports from the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre and will provide updates as new information comes available.

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