

Tsunami Warning Communication Test!

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 10:15 – 10:45 AM

What is it?

This test will evaluate the ability to deliver tsunami warning messages to you, the public, through television, radio, and NOAA weather radio. In some populated coastal areas of Humboldt County, tsunami sirens may be tested at the same time.

Why is it important to have a test of the tsunami warning system?

A test of the tsunami warning system ensures that all of the components of the system will work as intended during an actual tsunami emergency. The delivery of warning messages through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is the focus of this test. If we do not test the system, we will not know for certain that it will work in a real tsunami emergency.

What will happen during the test?

If you are watching television, you may see a message crawl across your screen with the tsunami warning and hear a voice telling you this is a test. If you don't hear the TV audio for any reason, please remember that this is only a test. Radio broadcasts will be interrupted with a voice announcement of the test, and NOAA Weather Radios with the alert feature will be activated. You may hear a siren in some populated coastal areas of Humboldt County.

What should I do?

- You do NOT need to take any action
- Do NOT call 911 or local authorities
- Do NOT evacuate your home or business.

Some schools and communities in Humboldt County may be practicing their evacuation plans during the test. You will receive additional information about any planned drills in your area.

We encourage your feedback after the test. You can give your comments by following the links online or by telephone at:

www.weather.gov/eureka (707) 443-6484

This is a good opportunity to find out more about preparing for earthquakes, tsunamis or any other disaster on the North Coast. Contact the American Red Cross (Humboldt – (707) 443-4521; Del Norte – (707) 464-2277; Mendocino – (707) 463-0112) for more information on how best to protect yourself and your family. If you have questions about the test, please visit the website or call the phone number listed above.