



Tsunami Evacuation Map

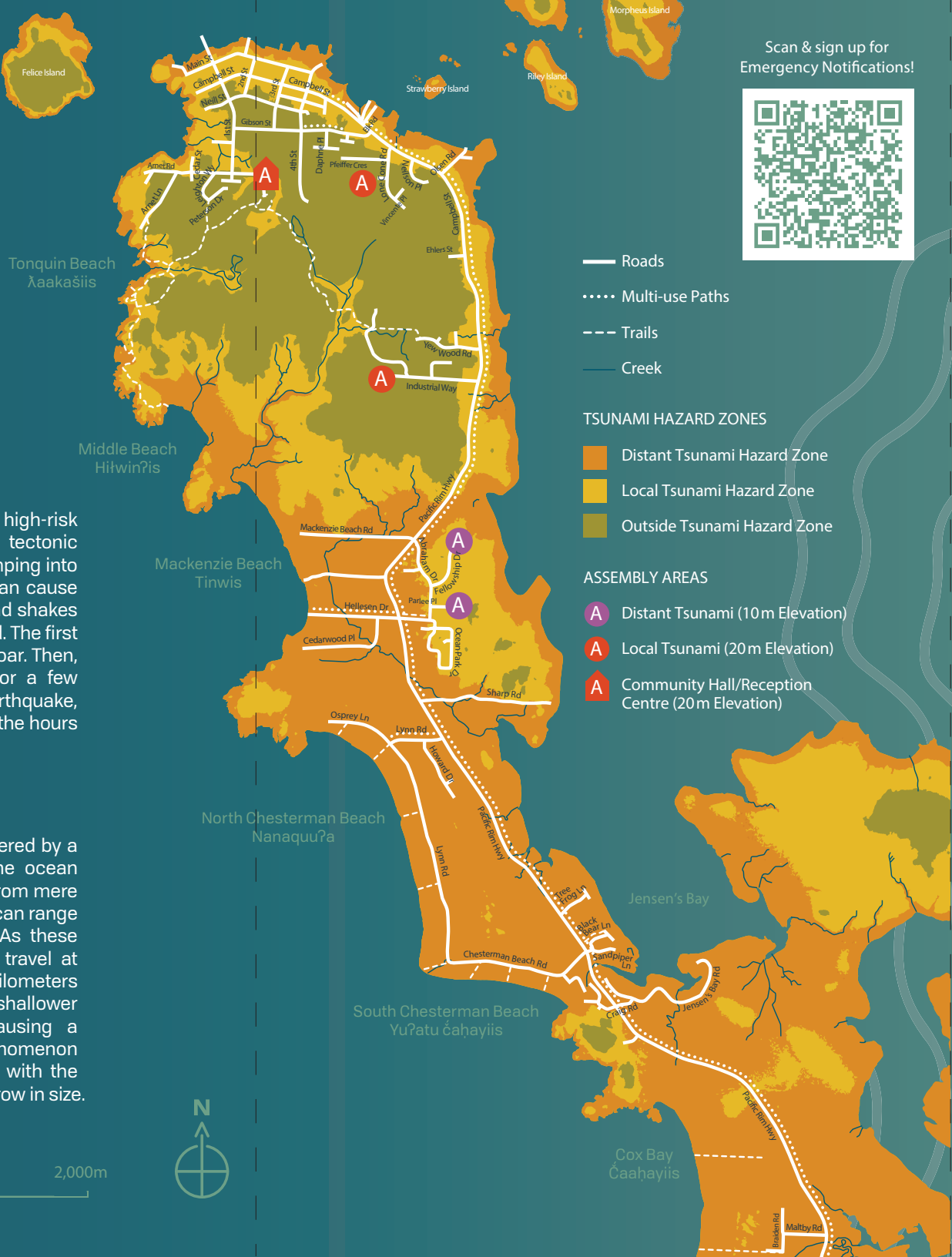
HAZARD ZONES AND SAFE ASSEMBLY AREAS

WHAT IS AN EARTHQUAKE?

The British Columbia coast is considered a high-risk earthquake zone. In this region, the earth's tectonic plates are constantly shifting, sliding, and bumping into each other. When these plates move, they can cause earthquakes. During an earthquake, the ground shakes because a burst of energy is suddenly released. The first sign of an earthquake may be a loud bang or roar. Then, the ground might begin to pitch and roll for a few seconds to a few minutes. After the main earthquake, smaller ones called aftershocks may occur in the hours or days that follow.

WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A tsunami is a series of waves, typically triggered by a significant earthquake occurring beneath the ocean floor. The time between each wave can vary from mere minutes to well over an hour, while the height can range from a few centimeters to several meters. As these waves move through the deep ocean, they travel at remarkable speeds, reaching around 800 kilometers per hour. However, once they approach shallower coastal waters, their pace diminishes, causing a dramatic increase in their height. This phenomenon occurs because the waves begin to interact with the ocean floor, causing them to slow down and grow in size.



Before a Tsunami

KNOW YOUR ZONE!

- ✓ Check the **Tsunami Evacuation Map** to determine if you live, work, or play within a tsunami hazard zone. If you reside in an elevated area, consider preparing to assist family, friends, and neighbours.
- ✓ Know where the safe assembly areas are and how to get there. Locate your nearest assembly area by referring to the evacuation map in this brochure and the Emergency Preparedness page at **Tofino.ca**.
- ✓ Build a grab-and-go bag for yourself, family, and pets.
- ✓ Develop a reunification plan with your family and friends and organize to stay with loved ones who reside outside of a tsunami hazard zone if possible.
- ✓ Register for local emergency notifications via the Notification System page at **Tofino.ca** or **scan the QR code** on the back of this brochure.

TSUNAMI ALERTS

There are two categories of tsunamis: local and distant.

A local tsunami is generated within 1000 km of the shoreline or travels from its source to the shoreline in less than one hour.

A distant tsunami originates from an earthquake or another geological event that occurs more than 1000 km from the coast and requires over three hours to travel from the source to the shoreline. Authorities will inform you if any action is necessary from a distant tsunami by issuing one of the following alerts.

TSUNAMI ALERT LEVELS

WARNING →	Flood wave possible	Full evacuation suggested
ADVISORY →	Strong currents likely	Stay away from the shore
WATCH →	Danger level not yet known	Stay alert for more info
INFO STATEMENT →	Minor waves at most	No action suggested
CANCELLATION →	Tidal gauges show no wave activity	Confirm safety for all local areas



The shaking is your tsunami warning



Tsunami waves may arrive for hours

During a Tsunami

LOCAL TSUNAMI

A local tsunami can reach the shoreline within minutes following an earthquake. If you feel an earthquake, **DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. Then quickly evacuate to the nearest safe assembly area.

Local Tsunami Notification

Because a local tsunami can rapidly reach the shoreline, there may not be time for an official warning. Observing natural signs could be your only warning to evacuate:

- Strong shaking from an earthquake
- A receding ocean
- A loud roar-like sound

DISTANT TSUNAMI

The response to a distant tsunami differs significantly from that of a local tsunami. Typically, there is more time for authorities to issue official warnings and for people to evacuate to higher ground. Additionally, there will be increased evacuation infrastructure and support readily available during this type of event.

Distant Tsunami Notification

Local authorities receive tsunami notifications through Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC). In the event of a tsunami alert, a siren will sound, signaling you to evacuate to the nearest safe assembly area.

To hear the siren wail, visit the Emergency Preparedness page at **Tofino.ca**.

After a Tsunami

In the event of a tsunami alert, authorities will communicate instructions through a variety of channels:

- Sirens will emit a loud, wailing tone, accompanied by a broadcasted message detailing the alert level and any necessary actions.
- Alerts and instructions will be provided via email, telephone, and text message through the Voyent Alert! Notification System.
- Alerts and instructions will be posted on District of Tofino social media accounts.

To stay informed, subscribe to the notification system and follow the social media accounts highlighted on the Emergency Preparedness page at **Tofino.ca**. If you are visiting, follow the same method to unsubscribe after your trip.

EMERGENCY RECEPTION CENTRE

The **Tofino Community Hall**, located at **351 Arnet Road**, also functions as the community's Emergency Reception Centre. If it is safe to do so, please proceed to this location.

REMEMBER!

- If you feel strong shaking from an earthquake, head to high ground immediately. Do not wait for official notifications.
- Remain in safe assembly areas until authorities confirm it is safe to return to low-lying regions. Tsunami waves may continue to arrive for several hours.
- Stay tuned to local media for updates and additional instructions.

In the event of a tsunami warning, the Provincial Government will issue an intrusive alert using their Alert Ready system, while the Local Government will communicate locally specific instructions through the channels listed above.



DISTRICT OF
Tofino

Contact the **District of Tofino** to learn more about tsunami and disaster preparedness in our community:
Address: 121 Third Street, Tofino, British Columbia **P:** 250.725.3229
E: office@tofino.ca **@districtoftofino** **W:** www.tofino.ca