

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

News Release - February 27, 2010

Tsunami Advisory Issued for Coastal BC

Coastal areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo may experience strong localized currents this afternoon, Saturday, February 27. A Tsunami Advisory for all of Coastal British Columbia was issued at 7:00am this morning, following a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile early Saturday, which has triggered a tsunami.

No significant inundation is expected, but low-lying coastal areas and beaches are at potentially risk and may experience strong currents, says the Advisory. The area with the least significant risk is the Georgia Basin, including the Gulf Islands, and low-lying areas on the BC South Coast and Vancouver Island from Greater Vancouver to North Campbell River, according to the Provincial Emergency Program.

Experts predict a first wave with a displacement of .2 metres to arrive at 3:07 pm at the Southern BC Coastline, says PEP. Residents throughout Coastal BC should move out of the water, off the beach and out of harbours and marinas, recommends PEP.

A Tsunami is a series of waves, and the first expected wave at 3:07 pm may not be the largest, cautions PEP. Intervals between tsunami waves can be between five minutes and one hour, with the threat continuing for many hours after first wave arrival.

RDN, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and District of Lantzville Emergency Program staff recommends residents check the Tsunami Notification Bulletin at www.pep.bc.ca for news on the Tsunami Advisory. Local radio stations and news media websites will also provide updates throughout the day.

The RDN will issue further updates to local media if the Tsunami Advisory is escalated for the Georgia Basin zone.

The City of Nanaimo provided a separate news release to local media this morning, February 27.

The Advisory was issued by the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre.

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Contact:

Jani Drew, 250-713-2057 Regional District of Nanaimo and District of Lantzville

Doug Banks, 250-951-8241 City of Parksville

Craig Reid, 250-927-0979 Town of Qualicum Beach