

General Earthquake and Tsunami Safety Information for the General Public

The City of Parksville does not notify residents when an earthquake happens as the shaking creates a self-notifying situation. Should an earthquake be large enough in magnitude to generate a tsunami, all local government emergency program coordinators and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) receive information bulletins from the National Tsunami Warning Centre advising if a tsunami has been generated and what areas may be affected.

The west coast of Vancouver Island is far more susceptible to large damaging tsunami waves than the east coast of Vancouver Island. Where the west coast of the island may expect worst case wave heights of 15 to 20 metres above sea level, the east coast is predicted to expect worst case wave heights of two metres above sea level.

The City of Parksville, like many local governments on the east coast of the island does not have a tsunami siren. The City does have a plan and should a tsunami warning be issued for our area, residents living in areas below the two metre elevation would be evacuated using a combination of fire, police and search and rescue personnel. As an example of elevation in Parksville, Highway 19A at the top of the Community Park is at an elevation of about 11 metres above sea level; above Highway 19A would be safe from the threat of a tsunami.

In an emergency situation, notifications from the City of Parksville would be posted to some or all of the following sites:

Facebook <http://facebook.com/cityparksville>
<http://facebook.com/ParksvilleFD>
Twitter http://twitter.com/city_parksville
<http://Twitter.com/ParksvilleFD>
Websites: <http://parksville.ca>
<http://pvfd.ca>

When the shaking from an earthquake starts, residents are encouraged to drop, cover and hold on for protection from flying objects as a result of the shaking. When the shaking stops and you have counted to 60 allowing everything to settle (including yourself), initiate your household emergency plan in order to care for yourself and loved ones. In the event of an earthquake where the ground shakes for more than a minute and you are near water (ocean, lake or river/stream), you should move to higher ground as soon as the shaking stops and it is safe to do so. A tsunami can be triggered in fresh water as well as ocean water.

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For more information

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