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MEDIA RELEASE

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07/30/2025 Distant Tsunami Talking Points

What Caused the Tsunami Advisory?

The evening of July 29th, the National Weather Service issued a tsunami watch which included the Oregon Coast due to an earthquake about 80 miles off the coast of Russia. The watch was then upgraded to a tsunami advisory.

What do you need to know now?

As of this morning, July 30, 2025, the advisory remains in effect. This means you need to stay out of the water, off the beach, and away from harbors, marinas, breakwaters, bays and inlets. Our team continues to monitor information from the National Weather Service (NWS) and tsunami.gov, but you also want to continue to be alert and watch for updates.

What is the difference between a watch, advisory, and warning?

A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or another event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. This is why the NWS originally issued a distant tsunami watch. It is intended to provide enough time for people in the potentially impacted areas to set their plans in motion. A watch means hazardous weather is possible. People should have a plan of action in case the situation develops further and they should listen for updated information and possible warnings.

An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or another event is occurring, imminent or likely. Advisories are used for less serious conditions than warnings, but still cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property. This is why we were upgraded to an advisory last night, there was and still are dangerous conditions on our beaches, marinas, harbors, bays, and inlets.

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Our mission is to enhance public safety, reduce the fear and impact of crime, and improve quality of life.

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A warning is when hazardous weather or events are occurring, imminent, or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the affected area need to take protective action when a warning is issued. For a tsunami warning, which is not active for the Oregon Coast as of 7am on July 30, 2025, this means moving to higher ground and out of the tsunami inundation zones.

What is the difference between a distant tsunami and a local tsunami?

A distant tsunami, such as this one, is caused by an earthquake or other event that is not in our area. This means there is time for responders to get information, assess the situation, and get information out to impacted areas, including information on if they need to evacuate.

A local tsunami is caused by a local earthquake or event. With a local tsunami, the earthquake is the notification that you need to evacuate to higher ground. There is not time for local responders to get information out to the affected areas. If you are ever on the Oregon Coast and feel the ground shake, evacuate to higher ground.

How do I know if I am in the tsunami inundation zone?

Nanoos.org has an interactive map where you can enter any address and see what areas are in the known distant and local tsunami inundation zones. [That's nvs.nanoos.org/TsunamiEvac](https://nvs.nanoos.org/TsunamiEvac)

What did the response look like last night?

Our small Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team was activated at about 5:20pm yesterday, July 29, 2025. We quickly called back some team members that had left at the end of their shift and put additional staff on standby in case the situation escalated quickly. We continued to monitor developing information and put together public information and information for Lincoln County Cooperators. Traditionally, during local events and disaster response, the Lincoln County communities do an incredible job coming together. One piece of this puzzle is making sure responders and similar organizations have information about the situation, are communicating with each other, and have a good grasp on the action plan or activities already in motion. Another really important piece of this puzzle is our community members doing one of the things they do best, which is helping keep each other informed and prepared for any action that may be needed such as evacuations. Our team and partners work very hard to get information out in a timely manner, but some of our community members don't have access to some forms of communication; this is one area community members make a big impact by checking on neighbors, friends, and vulnerable populations.

Our team continued to monitor the situation through the night and continues to do so this morning.

During those initial phases of activation there are a lot of moving pieces. Team members are working on assessing developing information -which can change quickly, managing public information and notifications, making plans for evacuations and shelters or assembly points, and so much more. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and cooperators are incredibly dedicated to our communities' safety and wellbeing and reflect that in our coordinated responses to events.

What is the Sheriff's Office currently doing?

Continuing to monitor the situation and sending relevant updates to our community.

What about expected impacts?

The National Weather Service has information on anticipated impacts. In one of their messages they shared the following:

Impacts will vary at different locations in the warning and in the advisory areas.

If you are in a tsunami warning area:

- A tsunami with damaging waves and powerful currents is possible.
- Repeated coastal flooding is possible as waves arrive onshore, move inland, and drain back into the ocean.
- Strong and unusual waves, currents and inland flooding can drown or injure people and weaken or destroy structures on land and in water.
- Water filled with floating or submerged debris that can injure or kill people and weaken or destroy buildings and bridges is possible.
- Strong and unusual currents and waves in harbors, marinas, bays, and inlets may be especially destructive.

If you are in a tsunami advisory area:

- A tsunami with strong waves and currents is possible.
- Waves and currents can drown or injure people who are in the water.
- Currents at beaches and in harbors, marinas, bays, and inlets may be especially dangerous.

If you are in a tsunami warning or advisory area:

- Some impacts may continue for many hours to days after arrival of the first wave.
- The first wave may not be the largest so later waves may be larger.
- Each wave may last 5 to 45 minutes as a wave encroaches and recedes.
- Coasts facing all directions are threatened because the waves can wrap around islands and headlands and into bays.

- Strong shaking or rolling of the ground indicates an earthquake has occurred and a tsunami may be imminent.
- A rapidly receding or receded shoreline, unusual waves and sounds, and strong currents are signs of a tsunami.
- The tsunami may appear as water moving rapidly out to sea, a gentle rising tide like flood with no breaking wave, as a series of breaking waves, or a frothy wall of water.

What can I do to prepare for future events or disasters?

- Stay updated with current information and alerts:
 - National Weather Service: www.weather.gov/
 - Tsunami.gov: tsunami.gov/
 - Lincoln County Emergency Alerts and Information - Lincoln Alerts
 - Sign up for or update your existing account to receive messages directly: member.everbridge.net/892807736721689/new
 - View sent messages and local alerts: member.everbridge.net/892807736721689/notif
 - Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Media Releases - FlashAlert: flashalert.net/id/LCSO
- Make an Emergency Plan
 - Review [NVS Tsunami Evacuation Zones](#)
 - Learn what tsunami evacuation zones your home, work, school, and other areas you frequent are in.
 - Learn the Tsunami Message definitions and appropriate actions.
 - Talk with family and friends about what you will do, including if you're not together during an emergency.
 - Practice your plan at different times and on different days. What will you do if you are at home, work, school, or another location?
 - Plan to check on your neighbors or vulnerable community members and offer assistance if possible.
 - Build an Emergency Kit
 - Create an emergency kit or update your existing one.
 - Some supplies include:
 - at least 4 weeks supply of food and water for each person and any pets. Remember to include water for drinking, sanitation, and preparing meals
 - battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
 - flashlight
 - first aid kit

- extra batteries
- whistle (to signal for help)
- dust mask (to help filter contaminated air) and face coverings
- plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- manual can opener (for food)
- local maps
- cell phone with chargers and power banks

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