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IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONES

Dear Property Owner,

Please find enclosed the 2026 updated tsunami evacuation map for Pāpāmoa East (Wairakei).

You will see that your evacuation zones have been updated and your current planned evacuation area may no longer be appropriate for your property. We encourage all residents to become familiar with the updated tsunami evacuation maps. Please replace the maps sent in 2023 with the enclosed updated map. Use your updated map to plan and practice your own tsunami evacuation route to a safe area that is not within the blue evacuation zone. The first warning is a major earthquake. Don't wait for an official warning if you feel an earthquake that:

- Lasts longer than a minute, or
- Is strong enough to knock you off your feet.

Evacuate immediately on foot, to avoid traffic jams, to an area outside of the evacuation zone. Alerting systems and technology support tsunami warnings, but a major earthquake is the first warning sign we all get. Remember the natural warning signs. For a local source tsunami, which could arrive within minutes, there won't be time for an official warning. It is important to recognise the natural warning signs.

We will be out and about in the Pāpāmoa community talking to people about the updated maps over the coming months. More information on when and where can be found at www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami along with the maps and additional information to aid your preparedness for an evacuation. For any further questions or concerns please contact one of our team at 07 577 7000 or at emergency.management@tauranga.govt.nz

Kind regards,



Paula Naude
Head of Community Outcomes & Emergency Management
Tauranga City Council

What is a tsunami evacuation zone map?

Tsunami evacuation zone maps show where people should go to be safe during a tsunami. A tsunami evacuation zone map shows the areas people need to move out of if there's a tsunami warning. It's designed for public safety, not for property planning. The map highlights areas to evacuate to, so people know where to go to stay out of danger. You can see the tsunami evacuation zone maps with the blue evacuation zone on our webpage at www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami or on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's BayExplorer webpage (Tsunami Evacuation Zone Layer) at maps.boprc.govt.nz/pages/bayexplorer (Click on the 'right hand side Open BayExplorer' Tab, select Natural Hazards and then Tsunami Evacuation).

Why have the evacuation zone boundaries in Pāpāmoa East changed?

As extensive development has occurred in Pāpāmoa East, more recent modelling was done to capture the new landform. Pāpāmoa East is now showing a greater extent of inundation, so it is important you check your new evacuation zone map and plan your route to reach a safe location should a tsunami occur.

Previous models forecasted what the developed landform would look like, reducing ground elevation to account for predicted developments across Pāpāmoa. As the land has now been earth-worked, and most developments completed, we have greater confidence in final elevations.

What size tsunami are the evacuation maps based on?

The evacuation maps are based on a 14-metre tsunami at the coastline. It is the maximum credible tsunami that can be predicted for our city, based on current knowledge. This is an event which is likely to occur once over a period of 2500 years. A tsunami may arrive 50 minutes after a major earthquake, do not wait for an official warning. If a tsunami is Long or Strong, Get Gone.

Where can I find the updated maps for Bay of Plenty areas?

The updated maps will be on new sign boards replacing old tsunami boards around the region (don't worry if a board near you hasn't been replaced yet – it soon will be). Digital maps are online at www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz and www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami. You can also see printed maps at council service centres and libraries. Maps may also have a QR code you can scan to see if you are in a tsunami evacuation zone.

How should I evacuate?

Walk, run or cycle if you can. The time it takes to reach a location which is outside the evacuation zone is modelled on an average walking pace. The evacuation maps show areas outside of the blue inundation zone that can be reached by foot from most parts of the coast within sufficient time. Trying to reach a location outside of the evacuation zone by car will quickly result in a traffic jam. More help and advice can be found at getready.govt.nz/emergency/tsunami.