

# Tsunami inundation data FAQs

PAGE 1

October 2025

## What is a tsunami inundation zone?

A tsunami inundation zone is the area of land that could be covered (or “inundated”) by water if a tsunami were to occur. It’s based on computer modelling that predicts how far inland tsunami waves could reach, depending on their size and source. These zones are used for planning and awareness, so people know which areas are at risk. You can view the new inundation zones on Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s Bay Explorer online map at <https://maps.boprc.govt.nz/pages/bayexplorer> (Click on the RHS ‘Open BayExplorer’ Tab, select *Natural Hazards* and then *Tsunami Inundation*).

## 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 safe routes and 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](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami) or on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s BayExplorer webpage (Click on the RHS ‘Open BayExplorer’ Tab, select *Natural Hazards* then *Tsunami Evacuation Zone Layer*) at <https://maps.boprc.govt.nz/pages/bayexplorer>.

## Why is information on the tsunami inundation zone being updated?

The science used for tsunami modelling is always improving. The new data on tsunami inundation prepared by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council was recently provided to Tauranga City Council. This will be used to update our tsunami evacuation zone maps early in 2026.

07 577 7000

[www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami)

[naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz)



# Tsunami inundation data FAQs

PAGE 2

October 2025

## Will this updated information go on my property file and any Land Information Memorandum (LIM)?

Yes, only if your property is within the updated tsunami inundation zone. It is a legal requirement for Tauranga City Council to put this updated information on a LIM. You can access your full property file via [www.tauranga.govt.nz/propertyfiles](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/propertyfiles). The new raw data in an online map format can be viewed on Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Bay Explorer online map at [maps.boprc.govt.nz/pages/bayexplorer](http://maps.boprc.govt.nz/pages/bayexplorer) (Click on the RHS 'Open BayExplorer' Tab, select *Natural Hazards* and then *Tsunami Inundation*).

## Does this new modelling change my property's insurance status?

The Insurance Council of New Zealand has provided Tauranga City Council with an overview of how modelling and data on natural hazards affects property insurance. The overview can be found here [www.tauranga.govt.nz/insurance-council-letter](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/insurance-council-letter). We recommend it is best to talk with your own insurer for more details specific to your property.

## How will this new information impact my property value?

Property values are influenced by many factors and are determined by the real estate market. While tsunami risk mapping may be one consideration for some buyers, other factors such as location, amenities, and market conditions typically have a greater influence on property values. If you have specific concerns about your property value, we recommend speaking with a qualified real estate professional who can provide advice based on current market conditions and your individual circumstances.

 07 577 7000

 [www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami)

 [naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz)



# Tsunami inundation data FAQs

**PAGE 3**

October 2025

## **Why does this new modelling look different from the tsunami evacuation zone maps available online and at beaches?**

Updating tsunami evacuation zone maps is a complex process that requires combining detailed scientific data with considerations for the number of people living in specific areas, the local roading layout, and other practical and social factors, which takes a significant amount of time. The new tsunami inundation data is available to the public now and our tsunami evacuation zone maps will be updated using this new data in early 2026.

## **Is this new modelling based off the same scenario as previous modelling data?**

The new modelling is also based on a 2,500-year return period tsunami for the Tauranga region. To identify the maximum impacted area GNS modelled tsunami generated by 18 different earthquake scenarios including several of different magnitude and location on the Kermadec Subduction Zone. The modelling is based on the most up to date understanding of tsunami generation using a model that has been internationally validated on past tsunami events.

## **How is Tauranga City Council planning for tsunami evacuation?**

Council has established a network of signposted tsunami evacuation routes through beach access points, park reserves and other significant areas. We have placed tsunami evacuation information boards along the routes inland, and there are tsunami direction signs guiding people along the most appropriate pathway out of the tsunami inundation zone.

We regularly educate community around the risk of tsunami in Tauranga, through delivery of talks with schools and retirement villages; provision of evacuation maps at our local beaches; encouraging the community to create their own evacuation household plans; and practice their evacuation route. We have also started working with the community on a Community-led Evacuation Working Group. Council is part of the Bay of Plenty region's Tsunami Ready Programme, for improved planning and coordination.

 07 577 7000

 [www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami](http://www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami)

 [naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz)



# Tsunami inundation data FAQs

**PAGE 4**

October 2025

## **Who completed this new modelling?**

Research associated with this new modelling data was undertaken by GNS Science with peer reviewing by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

## **What should I do to prepare for a tsunami?**

Have a plan, know your plan, practice your plan – including your evacuation route. Now is a good time to develop your household's evacuation plan and evacuation route to reach your nearest tsunami safe area if you have not already.

If an earthquake is 'Long or Strong: Get Gone'. Don't wait for an official warning; it may be too late. We will be producing new evacuation maps in early 2026, which will be useful for updating your household's evacuation plan and route. More help and advice can be found at [getready.govt.nz/emergency/tsunami](https://getready.govt.nz/emergency/tsunami).

## **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 previously provided, and due to be updated in early 2026, 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](https://getready.govt.nz/emergency/tsunami).

 07 577 7000

 [www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami](https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/tsunami)

 [naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:naturalhazards@tauranga.govt.nz)

