



By: **Jacque Morgan**
The City of Florence

Tsunami Sirens to be tested Friday July 30th at 11:00 AM

The tourist season is upon us and many do not know what a tsunami is, nor do they realize how devastating its affects may be. We encourage you to take preparedness seriously, as planning now will help mitigate recovery later. There are four tsunami sirens located throughout the inundation zone that are tested monthly. The next test is set for Friday July 30th at 11:00 am. The “test tone” will last for 60 seconds and will be followed by the all “clear tone”.

A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or meteorite. It can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with waves as high as 100 feet or more. Should this occur, it would cause devastation in the Florence area. All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike. A tsunami can strike anywhere along most of the U.S. coastline. The most destructive tsunamis have occurred along the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

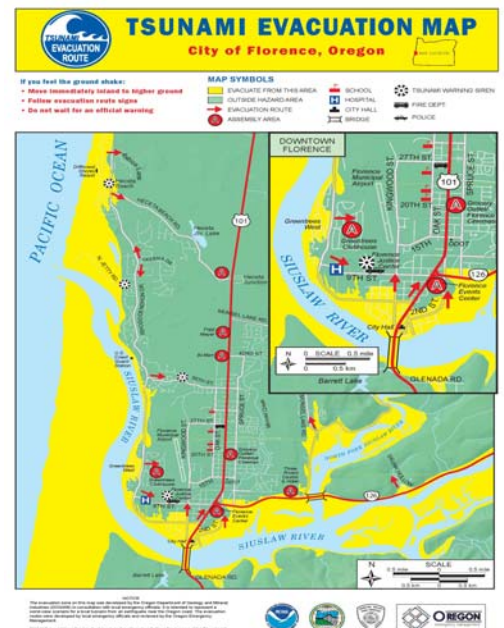
When, where, how, what kind, how often?

- A tsunami can occur anytime of the day or year.
- It will happen in coastal communities within distance of a subduction zone.
- A tsunami is caused by an undersea earthquake near or far from the Oregon Coast.
- A tsunami could last up to 12 hours.
- There are two kinds of tsunamis. One is a local event (off the Oregon coast) and a distant event (an earthquake from the Oregon coast).
- The last event local event occurred in January 1700. In Oregon, geologists state that a local tsunami would occur every 300-500 years.

Copies of the Tsunami Evacuation Map of Florence are free to the public and can be obtained from Florence City Hall located at 250 Hwy 101. The evacuation maps are a visual guide to help individuals internalize personal plans. People that have internet in their homes or at work may also go to <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/> and register to receive tsunami warnings via e-mail.

There are three parts to the tsunami notification plan:

1. Four tsunami sirens are located throughout the



inundation zone, and would activate in the event of a tsunami warning.

2. CENS (the Community Emergency Notification System) would be activated to approximately 3,450 landline phones in the inundation zone.
3. EAS (Emergency Alert System) would scroll a message across your television screen.

Always remember that if you feel the earth shake, move to higher ground immediately. Tune your radio to KCST 106.9 FM.