

TSUNAMI WARNING TEST IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

NOAA's National Weather Service, in collaboration with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, will conduct a test of the Tsunami Warning System in the coastal areas of Humboldt County, Calif. on **Wednesday, March 26, 2008**, between 10:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

This is the first time that "live" tsunami warning codes, rather than a test code, will be broadcast on radio and television stations in Humboldt County. It is very important that the public is informed of this test ahead of time so they do not mistake the test for a real tsunami warning.

The National Weather Service office in Eureka, Calif., will initiate this test by activating the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for Humboldt County. This test of the Tsunami Warning System will involve NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local TV and radio stations, and other local communication sources. Radio listeners should hear the familiar alerting tone followed by an audio message describing the test, similar to the routine monthly tests of the EAS.

It is important to note that some television systems are programmed to scroll a standard, pre-composed message based upon the emergency code received. Because a live tsunami warning code will be used, the message television viewers see may not contain the word "TEST." The television audio message that accompanies the crawler will explain it as a test. If the volume is turned down or otherwise unheard, viewers may not realize the warning is a test. People watching TV during the test should expect to see the following words crawl across the bottom or top of their TV screens:

"The National Weather Service in Eureka has issued a Tsunami Warning for Humboldt County."

The general public should remember that the March 26th activity is a test and they should not respond as though there is a real tsunami. **The public SHOULD NOT call 9-1-1 to find out what is going on, and they SHOULD NOT evacuate.**

Members of the public can participate in the test by monitoring their local TV and radio stations, or their NOAA Weather Radio, to provide feedback, online, at: <http://www.weather.gov/tsunamitest.php>. It is especially important that people monitoring the test in coastal areas that DO NOT receive the test via commercial radio or NOAA Weather Radio should inform their local National Weather Service office by providing feedback at the above Web site.

This test of the Tsunami Warning System will include the activation of the EAS in the same way that would be done for a real tsunami. The goal is to ensure the EAS system will function properly when it is activated for a real tsunami emergency. This is the first such test in California, and is only being conducted in Humboldt County. Officials will evaluate the success of the test to correct any problems in the Tsunami Warning System. For more information go to <http://www.weather.gov/eureka> or call:

Troy Nicolini with the National Weather Service **or**
443-0574 ex223
Dan Larkin with Humboldt County Sheriff's office
268-2502

Ryan Peterson, Lieutenant
Arcata Police Department
825-2566 or
825-2588 Emergency Info Line