



DISTANT TSUNAMI PROCEDURES

Lincoln County School District

DISTANT TSUNAMI (from an Earthquake we Don't Feel)

When a significant earthquake occurs a large distance from the Oregon Coast, from an earthquake that we don't feel, a Distant Tsunami may be generated. The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska (ntwc.arh.noaa.gov) is the government organization which provides information to the public regarding tsunami threats to our area. There are four separate alert levels: *Information Statement, Watch, Advisory, and Warning*. Each has a distinct meaning and suggested action:

Alert Level	Threat	Action
Information	Minor waves at most	No action suggested
Watch	Danger level not yet known	Stay alert for more info
Advisory	Strong currents likely	Stay away from the shore
Warning	Inundating waves possible	Full evacuation suggested

When a Tsunami *Watch, Advisory or Warning* is issued for our area, LCSD will attempt to follow these procedures to help keep students and staff safe:

TSUNAMI WATCH

When a Tsunami “*Watch*” is issued, the National Tsunami Warning Center will assess the situation and modify the *Watch* status to either a 1) *Cancellation*, 2) *Advisory*, or 3) *Warning*. If safe to do so, the school district will wait until the *Watch* is modified to announce decisions about the school day. If a *Watch* is issued before buses leave for their morning routes, the Superintendent may decide to delay school while waiting for further information from the National Tsunami Warning Center.

TSUNAMI ADVISORY

When a Tsunami “*Advisory*” is issued, all activity trips located in (or driving through) low lying areas (beaches, harbors, estuaries, rivers, ocean, etc) will be cancelled. This also includes sailing, kayaking, and other athletic events. If these trips are already in progress, they will be cancelled and students returned to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety.

TSUNAMI WARNING

Tsunami “*Warnings*” are usually provided 4 or more hours before tsunami waves are expected to begin arriving. The time the Tsunami “*Warning*” is announced will influence the procedures we follow during a Tsunami “*Warning*”.

NON-SCHOOL HOURS: When a Tsunami “*Warning*” is issued before bus routes begin in the morning:

- School will be cancelled, including all activity trips and extra-curricular activities.
- Buses will not run.
- Lincoln City Buses will be moved out of the Tsunami Inundation Zone: 3 to Oceanlake Elementary, the remaining to Taft High School (if it is safe to do so).
- Schools may be made available to the American Red Cross (as requested) for sheltering community members.

- Bus services may be made available to local Emergency Services agencies (as requested) to assist with evacuations. It is mandatory that all school bus drivers be out of the tsunami zone at least 1 hour before the estimated wave arrival time.

MORNING ARRIVAL: When a Tsunami “*Warning*” is issued while buses are in route during morning arrival:

- School will be cancelled, including all activity trips and extra-curricular activities.
- Buses will continue to pick up students on the route and then bring all students to their assigned schools.
- Parents dropping off children at school will be advised of the Tsunami Warning, that school is cancelled, and not to drop off their children. Student “walkers” will be kept at the school until a Family Reunification is made.
- Family Reunification will take place at each individual school for students already at school or brought to school by buses. At the end of the school day, all remaining students will be moved to the nearest shelter school - Oceanlake Elementary School may be an exception to this procedure due to its geographic distance from any shelter school.

SCHOOL HOURS: When a Tsunami “*Warning*” is issued while school is in session:

- All schools will go into a Code Yellow Lockdown and continue educational activities as much as feasible while plans are made for Family Reunification and possible overnight sheltering. Since this type of event can cause panic, student accountability is essential. It is important to prevent students from leaving campus without conducting a formal Family Reunification process. The Code Yellow Lockdown status will help in this regard.
- All Activity Trips and extra-curricular activities will be cancelled. Trips already in progress will return to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety.
- Family Reunification will take place at each individual school as soon as parents are able to pick up their children. At the end of the school day, all remaining students will be moved to the nearest shelter school. Oceanlake Elementary School may be an exception to this procedure due to its geographic distance from any shelter school.
- Buses will not take students home. A few buses will be staged at each school and be available to move remaining students to shelter schools. Lincoln City Buses will be moved out of the Tsunami Inundation Zone and will be staged at Taft High School.
- Designated Shelter Schools (Waldport High, Toledo Elementary, Taft High, and Newport Middle) will prepare to shelter any remaining students from schools in their area who were not able to be picked up at their schools. Family Reunification for all remaining students will be at the shelter school.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL: When a Tsunami “*Warning*” is issued during afternoon dismissal:

- All activity trips and extra-curricular activities will be cancelled. Trips already in progress will return to their school of origin or nearest shelter school, depending on timing and safety.
- Buses may be directed to finish their routes or immediately take students to the nearest shelter school. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the timing of the “*Warning*.”