



January 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

General Earthquake and Tsunami Safety Information for the General Public

MEDIA RELEASE

Qualicum Beach, BC – The Town of Qualicum Beach does not notify residents when an earthquake happens as the shaking creates a self-notifying situation. Should an earthquake be large enough in magnitude to generate a tsunami, all local government emergency program coordinators and Emergency Management BC (EMBC) receive information bulletins from the National Tsunami Warning Centre advising if a tsunami has been generated and what areas may be affected.

The west coast of Vancouver Island is far more susceptible to large damaging tsunami waves than the east coast of Vancouver Island. Where the west coast of the island may expect worst case wave heights of 15 to 20 metres above sea level, the east coast is predicted to expect worst case wave heights of two metres above sea level.

The Town of Qualicum Beach, like many local governments on the east coast of the island, does not have a tsunami siren. The Town does have a plan and should a tsunami warning be issued for our area, residents living in areas below the two metre elevation would be evacuated using a combination of fire, police and search and rescue personnel.

In an emergency situation, notifications from the Town of Qualicum Beach would be posted to some or all of the following sites:

Facebook <http://facebook.com/qualicumbeach>
 <http://facebook.com/QBFire>
Website: <http://qualicumbeach.com>

When the shaking from an earthquake starts, residents are encouraged to drop, cover and hold on for protection from flying objects as a result of the shaking. When the shaking stops and you have counted to 60, allowing everything to settle (including yourself), initiate your household emergency plan in order to care for yourself and loved ones. In the event of an earthquake where the ground shakes for more than a minute and you are near water (ocean, lake or river/stream), you should move to higher ground as soon as the shaking stops and it is safe to do so. A tsunami can be triggered in fresh water as well as ocean water.

In case of a community-wide emergency, such as an earthquake, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family members for a minimum of 72 hours. The Government of Canada has resources available at <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/> to help create an emergency plan and build a 72-hour emergency kit. There are also local distributors that sell ready-made emergency kits for a wide variety of situations.

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