

# Tsunami



## Definition

A tsunami (soo-NAH-mee) is a series of giant waves which can come ashore for hours. They are caused by earthquakes, eruption of an underwater volcano or landslides. There are certain rare cases where a tsunami is caused by large meteorite impacts in the ocean.

Tsunami waves maybe seen as a massive wall of water approaching land, there is usually more than one wave and the first is not necessarily the largest. Tsunami waves are very powerful and often contain dangerous debris such as trees, cars and boats, they may range in height from a few inches to several meters.

## Know the Different Types of Tsunamis

There are three (3) types of tsunamis:

### 1. Local or Near Source

This occurs very near to the shoreline and provides little time for warning or evacuation

### 2. Regional

These can make landfall within 1 to 3 hours after the generating event

### 3. Distant or Tele-tsunami (ocean wide)

This is generated from a distance source and allows for an official warning and evacuation

## Can a Tsunami Impact Barbados?

Yes. All known sources capable of causing tsunamis are found within the environs of Barbados. Additionally, there are distant sources across the Atlantic Ocean which can cause tsunamis which can also impact Barbados.

Barbados lies in an area of relatively high-earthquake activity, the most likely tsunamis to affect the island are those which can be triggered by shallow earthquakes (less than 50km in depth).

Currently, there is no comprehensive tsunami warning system for Barbados or the other Caribbean Islands. However, an interim agreement exists with Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) to warn Caribbean Islands in the event of an approaching

tsunami. Barbados has a Tsunami Warning Protocol and Standing Operating Procedures. The Barbados Meteorological Service is the official Tsunami Warning Focal Point for Barbados.

It is imperative that you know the natural warning signs and become tsunami smart to save your life and the lives of others.

## Be Tsunami Smart



What does the slogan “**Be Tsunami Smart**” mean? It means that you should know the natural warning signs of a tsunami.

When you are at the beach, if you:

- **FEEL** a strong shaking
- **HEAR** a strange roar from the sea
- **SEE** the water withdraw an unusual distance from the shore



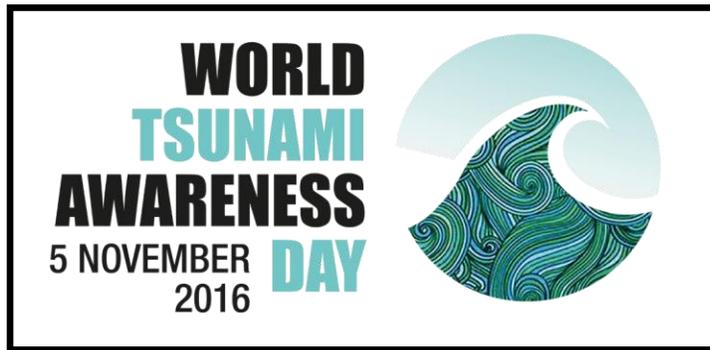
## RUN

Run to higher ground or as far inland as possible

When you know and obey the natural signs, then you are **TSUNAMI SMART**.



## *World Tsunami Day*



The United Nations General Assembly Resolution designated **5 November 2016** as the World Tsunami Awareness Day. 2016 is the first time this day will be observed.

This inaugural day will highlight the contribution of tsunami risk reduction to achieving the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 targets, including reducing global disaster mortality, the number of people affected by disasters, direct economic losses and damage to critical infrastructure and social services.

The World Tsunami Awareness Day will also provide an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent interlinkage between disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

The objective of the World Tsunami Awareness Day is to raise public awareness of the deadly threat posed by tsunamis and share innovative approaches to reducing risk.

The theme for 2016: **Effective Education and Evacuation Drills**

For more information on Tsunamis call the Department of Emergency Management at 246-438-7575

OR

For additional reading visit the following websites:

[www.barbadosweather.org](http://www.barbadosweather.org)

[www.weready.org](http://www.weready.org)

[www.uwiseismic.com](http://www.uwiseismic.com)

[www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ctwp/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/ctwp/)

[www.tsunami.gov/info.php](http://www.tsunami.gov/info.php)

<http://ptwc.weather.gov/>

<http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/>

<http://www.unisdr.org/2016/tsunamiday>