

Appendix 1: Useful information and resources

Tsunami are waves caused by the sudden movement of the sea due to earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions in, or adjacent to, oceans. Even though the overall tsunami risk to Victoria is lower than other parts of the world, a tsunami may still affect the Victorian coast.

When a tsunami threat exists, bulletins with information and advice will be issued by the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre, which is operated by the Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia.

A Tsunami Watch is issued to advise that a possible tsunami threat may exist, and services should monitor the situation for further updates. Where a tsunami threat does exist, a Tsunami Warning will advise services what action they should take.

The Bureau of Meteorology uses tsunami warnings that are categorised into three levels of threat, with required community responses. These have been determined in consultation with emergency management authorities.

1. **No threat:** An undersea earthquake has been detected, however it has not generated a tsunami, or the tsunami poses no threat to Australia.
2. **Marine and immediate foreshore threat:** Warning of potentially dangerous rips, waves and strong ocean currents in the marine environment and the possibility of only some localised overflow onto the immediate foreshore.
3. **Land inundation threat:** Warning for low-lying coastal areas of major land inundation, flooding, dangerous rips, waves and strong ocean currents.

For useful information on being ready for a tsunami refer to:

[Bureau of Meteorology – Joint Australia Tsunami Warning Centre](http://www.bom.gov.au/tsunami)

<www.bom.gov.au/tsunami>

[Geoscience](http://www.ga.gov.au)

<www.ga.gov.au>

[State Emergency Service – TsunamiSafe](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/tsunamisafe)

<www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/tsunamisafe>

[Victoria Online](http://www.vic.gov.au/emergencies-safety)

<www.vic.gov.au/emergencies-safety>