



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

All of New Zealand's coastline is at risk of tsunami. They have the potential to cause more damage than earthquakes or volcanoes.

THE RING OF FIRE

New Zealand is part of the Pacific 'ring of fire' - the tectonic plate boundaries that surround the Pacific. The tectonic plates are constantly moving. Pressure builds up between the plates and is sometimes released as very large earthquakes, like the Boxing Day earthquake in 2004 and the Tohoku earthquake in Japan in 2011. These quakes can generate tsunami that travel from the earthquake site to New Zealand.

Fault lines and plate boundaries near New Zealand could produce large earthquakes. A powerful earthquake where the Pacific and the Australian Plates meet could result in a 15m high tsunami striking Northland and Great Barrier Island, parts of the East Coast of the North Island and Wairarapa. Southland and the West Coast also have fault lines that could produce large earthquakes.

DID YOU KNOW



GNS Science research after the 2011 Japan tsunami shows fault lines near New Zealand could produce much larger earthquakes than previously thought.

DON'T FORGET

Long or Strong

GET GONE

