31 August 2016

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIME OF RELEASE: 2.21pm

**Surge hits Milford Sound**

A surge of at least 5 metres has hit Milford Sound at 2pm, which follows the declaration of a national state of emergency for the expected tsunami threat. Major flooding and damage has already been identified.

There appears to be water inside the Visitors terminal approximately a metre deep. The airstrip, sewerage treatment plant and Deepwater basin wharf have also been flooded.

Advice from Emergency Management Southland continues to be for people in coastal areas to move to higher ground as there will be more than one wave and the subsequent waves are likely to be higher than the first.

A king tide is also expected along the Southland coast tonight, which could make the effects of the tsunami much worse.

Anyone on or near a waterway in Southland should also move to higher ground as the king tide and waves may have an impact much further upstream.

**Share this information with family, neighbours and friends**
**Listen to the radio and/or TV for updates**
**Follow instructions of local civil defence authorities**

Information is also available on Facebook at civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/exercisetangaroa2016.

ENDS.

Inquiries: Public Information Team

CDEM Emergency Management Southland

0274 26 21 24