**This information is part of Exercise Tangaroa**.

There is no tsunami. We are part of a test of New Zealand’s arrangements for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a national tsunami impact. For more information to go <http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/exercisetangaroa2016/>

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence and Emergency Management

MEDIA RELEASE #1

Wednesday, 31 August 10am

**People urged to evacuate following tsunami warning**

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence is urging people in Bay of Plenty coastal areas to move to higher ground due to a tsunami threat to the region this morning.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre has issued a tsunami threat message for New Zealand including Mount Maunganui following an 8.8m earthquake near the Kermadec islands at 9am.

If a tsunami has been generated, the first wave may arrive in NZ in the areas around East Cape from about 10:15am, 31 August 2016.

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Group Controller Clinton Naude has advised that people in low lying coastal areas need to evacuate immediately to higher ground.

“Please use common sense and if possible travel by foot,” said Mr Naude.

**Where to go:**

Papamoa residents should use Domain Road to move to State Highway 33 and drive towards Rotorua.

Arataki residents use Girven Road to State Highway 29a to Rotorua.

Mount Maunganui residents take Takitimu Drive towards Waikato.

Rural residents assemble on the west side of State Highway 2 where practical.

People in coastal areas of Bay of Plenty should also:

1.    Share this information with family, neighbours and friends

2.    Listen to the radio for updates

3.    Follow instructions of local civil defence authorities

**Tsunami evacuation**

* Move quickly to higher ground, or if the surrounding area is flat, inland, as far from the coastline as possible.
* Evacuate via the routes drawn on evacuation maps if maps are present.
* Walk or bike quickly if possible, drive only if essential. If driving, keep going once you are well outside of all evacuation zones, to allow room for others behind you
* If you are farming along the coast or river estuary, evacuate your family and staff to higher ground first. If you have time, move livestock and domestic animals to higher ground.
* Stay out of the evacuated area until given the official “all-clear”.
* Continue to listen to your radio.
* Stay away from coastal water, tidal estuaries, rivers and streams for at least 24 hours after any tsunami warning, as even small waves create dangerous currents.
* Boats are generally safer in water deeper than 20 metres than if they are close to the shore. It is not safe to try to move a boat if a tsunami is imminent.
* Take your Getaway Kit with you.

Regular updates will be provided on Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management’s website [www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz](http://bayofplentyregionalcouncil.cmail19.com/t/d-l-ykhhhtl-aidlioj-r/) and on [www.facebook.com/BOPCivilDefence](http://bayofplentyregionalcouncil.cmail19.com/t/d-l-ykhhhtl-aidlioj-y/). As the situation evolves, more information will be available.  A list of relevant radio frequencies and websites are listed at the end of this release.

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