

**MEDIA RELEASE: TSUNAMI EVENT #5  
Horizons Regional Council**

**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 go to** [**www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/exercisetangaroa2016**](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/exercisetangaroa2016)

Wednesday 31 August, 2016

**Tsunami arrives**

Tsunami waves have hit the east and west coast of the Horizons Region at approximately 12.30pm today.

Horizons Regional Council controller Ged Shirley says while the estimated wave sizes had previously been downgraded, the actual sizes were closer to forecasted heights this morning.

“Whanganui was hit by a wave of a 5-8m, south of Wanganui to Horowhenua experienced waves of 3-5m and Tararua 1-3m waves. Fortunately evacuation had occurred in all coastal areas prior to the waves hitting.

“While the waves have struck, there is still potential for further waves. With that in mind we ask that people stay away from these areas until further notice.

“At this stage people who live in the affected areas won’t be able to their homes until tomorrow morning at the earliest,” he says.

For any missing person enquiries please call 0800 TSUNAMI. Only call 111 if it is an emergency.

Evacuation numbers for the Region include:

* Whanganui District Council: 7,000 people are now in evacuation centres and being assessed for triage. It is expected at lease 4,000 of these people will require temporary housing. All three bridges across the Whanganui River are closed.
* Rangitikei District Council: 50 people in Marton Memorial Hall, expected to rise to 250 as people start returning from work.
* Manawatu District Council: 606 homes evacuated, two evacuation centres with expected temporary housing needed for approximately 320 people.
* Horowhenua District Council: 1,600 people evacuated
* Tararua District Council: 500 people evacuated

For further information about evacuations and centres please contact the relevant district council.

Members of the public in coastal areas should:

* Stay out of the water (including sea, rivers and estuaries, including boasting activities)
* Stay off beaches and shore areas
* Do not go sightseeing
* Share this information with family, neighbours and friends
* Listen to the radio and/or TV for updates
* Follow instructions of local civil defence authorities

**Ends**

**For more information contact Cara Hesselin, Communications Advisor, Horizons Regional Council, 06 9522 951, 021 2277 190**