

**MEDIA RELEASE: TSUNAMI EVENT #3
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

**Evacuations taking place**

Evacuations are taking place in all coastal areas in the Horizons Region in response to the approaching tsunami threat.

Horizons Regional Council controller Ged Shirley says all territorial authorities have activated their evacuation procedures.

“Manawatu District Council is evacuating their areas with messages going out via social media and community phone trees. All people must be out of the area by 12.15pm.

“Horowhenua District Council has put up road blocks as evacuations take place with waves expecting to arrive at approximately 12.30pm.

“Whanganui District Council has evacuated approximately 7,000 people on their coast and closed the airport to all traffic.

“Tararua and Rangitikei District Council are also undertaking evacuations and have centres set up,” he says.

Manawatu District Council evacuation centres have be set up at the Te Kawa Recreational Centre in Rongotea and The Vines on Rangiotu Road. The safe point for Himitangi is Wiley Road and for Tangimoana Clydesdale Hall.

Whanganui District Council evacuation centres are at the Racecourse and Drury Hill.

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

Waves between 1-3m are expected on the east coast and between 3-5m for Horowhenua and 5-8m for Manawatu/Wanganui on the west coast.

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**

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