*Media release:  Tuesday 31 August 2016, 11.50pm*

**People advised to evacuate all Horowhenua coastal areas**

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) has issued a National Declaration - National State of Emergency in response to the EXCERCISE TANGAROA tsunami warning to MARINE and LAND for all New Zealand coastal regions.

Current assessments indicate that wave amplitudes of up to 3-8m or greater can be expected in some areas.  **These waves are expected to hit the Horowhenua coastline at 12.50pm today.**

People in coastal areas from Foxton, Foxton Beach, Waikawa Beach, Waitarere Beach and Hokio Beach must evacuate. Free buses are available to transport people from coastal communities.

**Bus pick up points:**

* Foxton Beach – Simply Balmy/ 4 Square on Seabury
* Waitarere – 4 Square
* Hokio Beach – Muaupoko Street
* Waiakwa – Estuary Footbridge

The Fire Service and Ambulance Service are assisting with getting people to these pick up points.

All roads leading into these coastal areas have been blocked. If you are unsure of whether you should evacuate, please contact Horowhenua District Council.

**Emergency Centres are available at:**

* Manawatu College, 14-18 Ladys Mile, Foxton
* Poroutawhao School, 796 State Highway 1
* Manakau School, 9 Mokena Kohere Street, Manakau
* Salvation Army, 11 Durham Street, Levin

**People in the ALL coastal areas should**:

1. Stay out of the water (sea, rivers and estuaries, including boating activities)
2. Stay off beaches and shore areas

3. Move to high ground immediately if you are in a known tsunami hazard zone
4. Do not go sightseeing
5. Share this information with family, neighbours and friends
6. Listen to the radio and/or TV for updates
7. Follow instructions of local civil defence authorities

This Tsunami warning will remain in effect until a cancellation message is issued by MCDEM.

MCDEM and scientific advisors are continuously monitoring the situation.

Useful websites:
<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/>
<http://www.getthru.govt.nz/>

***ENDS***

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Working together to take Horowhenua from Good to Great

