Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management Media release

31 August 2018

Exercise Tangaroa only

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The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) has issued a tsunami warning for all New Zealand coastal areas including the Chatham Islands from 1017 hours 31 August 2016.

A tsunami is possible. If a tsunami has been generated, the first waves may arrive in New Zealand in the areas around East Cape from 1017 hours 31 August 2016. The first wave activity may not be the most significant. Tsunami activity will continue for several hours and the threat must be regarded as real until this warning is cancelled.

The Minister has declared a national State of Emergency.

We are continuing to assess the threat and will provide more information within the next hour. We have activated the National Crisis Management Centre to coordinate the response. We are assessing the scale of evacuations and impact and will be issuing updates regularly throughout the day

Meanwhile, people in 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 if you're 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

ENDS

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