Exercise Tangaroa Advisory Otago tsunami EOC #3 1510hrs

The 111 emergency telephone system in the South Island is under severe pressure because of the tsunami which has hit the Otago coast.  
People requiring urgent emergency assistance should contact their local fire or police station on their non-emergency landline (numbers are i the White Pages of the Otago telephone directory or online at [www.whitepages.co.nz](http://www.whitepages.co.nz).

Evacuation has occurred of low-lying areas along the Otago coast after a series of waves  of up to three metres hit.

Otago CDEM Group regional controller Chris Hawker urged people who have not already been evacuated to:

  -   evacuate all low lying coastal areas

-   stay out of the sea and all waterways, particularly threatened areas until tomorrow.

 -   go to higher ground or inland as far as possible.

 -  share this warning with neighbours, friends and family.

  -   do not go sightseeing.

  -   listen to the radio for updates.

-     follow the instructions of local civil defence authorities.

Otago Regional Council chairman Stephen Woodhead reiterated that people should not delay leaving coastal and low-lying areas if they have not already done so.

Mr Woodhead said even though the first waves have already hit, strong currents and unusual tidal effects may continue for several hours, and the first wave to have hit may not be the largest.

The Otago Emergency Co-ordination Centre is continuing to liase with city and district councils through their emergency operations centres and people should closely follow their instructions.

 This tsunami warning and state of emergency will remain in place until a cancellation message is issued.

ENDS