Exercise Tangaroa Advisory Otago tsunami EOC #2 1145hrs

Evacuation of low-lying communities is under way along the Otago coast, Regional Controller Chris Hawker says..

Police are making these plans in consultation with the Waitaki District Council, Dunedin City Council, and Clutha District Council, who are managing the evacuations and setting up of evacuation centres.

The National Crisis Management Centre has issued a tsunami warning for all of NZ after an earthquake magnitude 9.2 hit at a depth of 33km near the Kermadec Trench.

Planning for the response to the event is based on waves from the expected tsunami are expected to hit the Otago coast from about 12.30pm at a estimated height of three (3) metres.

People are advised to listen to their radios for further information, stay away from the coast until further notice. Otago Regional Council chairman Stephen Woodhead urged people not to delay leaving coastal and low-lying areas.

"People need to move immediately and follow any instructions of emergency services

The Otago Emergency Co-ordination Centre is co-ordinating the regional response with local authorities and emergency services.

ENDS

Authorised by Regional Controller Chris Hawker

Issued by duty Public Information Manager

11.45am

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