!!!!!!!EXERCISE TANGAROA ONLY !!!!!!!!!!!

**Public Advisory #1**

**31 August 2016 10.15am**

A national tsunami warning has been issued for all of New Zealand by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management at 10am following a large earthquake near the Kermadec Islands at 9.02am.

This includes the Otago coastline which stretches from the Waitaki River Mount to the Catlins.

Stephen Woodhead, Chair of the Otago Regional Council, has declared a local state of emergency for Otago Region.

Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Controller Chris Hawker said that the Emergency Operations Centre in Stafford St has been activated and Emergency Services, council staff and partner agencies including Police and the Southern DHB have been advised and have activated their response procedures.

Initial indications are that a tsunami may reach the Otago coastline from 12.30pm onwards and we are planning for that eventuality. We are expecting advice on likely wave heights from MCDEM.

Specific information for coastal communities will be issued by the Waitaki District, Dunedin City and Clutha District Councils – please listen to your local radio stations for further instructions.

The public is advised to stay away from the coastline and efforts are being made to contact residents and recreational users who may already be at the coast.

Updates will also be posted on the Otago Civil Defence website [www.otagocdem.govt.nz](http://www.otagocdem.govt.nz/)

ENDS

This release has been issued by Michele Poole, Duty Public Information Manager on the authority of the Group Controller Chris Hawker.

A further update will be issued at approx 11am

Contact Michele Poole, Duty Public Information Manager, ph 034707492 or 0278398306