31 August 2016

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIME OF RELEASE: 2.31pm

**Water coming over Stead Street seawall**

Emergency Management Southland has received reports of water coming over the Stead Street seawall.  The Invercargill City Council is monitoring the situation.

Police are currently manning a barrier at Otatara and Dunns Road to stop people attempting to get to Oreti Beach.

Advice from Emergency Management Southland continues to be for people in coastal areas to move to higher ground as there will be more than one wave and that subsequent waves are likely to be higher than the first.

A king tide is also expected along the Southland coast tonight, which could make the effects of the water surges much worse.

Anyone on or near a waterway in Southland should also move to higher ground as the king tide and waves may have an impact much further upstream.

**Share this information with family, neighbours and friends**
**Listen to the radio and/or TV for updates**
**Follow instructions of local civil defence authorities**

Information is also available on Facebook at civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/exercises/exercisetangaroa2016.

ENDS.

Inquiries: Public Information Team

CDEM Emergency Management Southland

0274 26 21 24

Evacuation centres:

Bluff: Te Rau Aroha Marae, 8 Bradshaw Street, Bluff

Invercargill: Stadium Southland, Surrey Park Sports Centre, Isabella Street, Invercargill

Tokanui: Gorge Road Community Centre, Gorge Road.