31 August 2016

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIME OF RELEASE: 3.26pm

Many areas have been affected by the initial surge of water from the tsunami, however subsequent surges many be worse and people are advised to continue to stay on higher ground or in the evacuation centres.

**General situation update:**

The seawall at Stead Street has had a 20 metre breach. Water is now able to flow into Lake Hawkins (recovered land around the airport). The airport is closed and could be affected by waves of over 2 metres.

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

Waikawa has very high water around the wharf and four properties on Antrim Street have water around them.

Seawater is crossing the road at Colac Bay and the road is closed.

Sewerage treatment plant at Milford Sound has been submerged.

There is an increased police presence around evacuated areas, ensuring homes are kept secure.

Response times from 111 may be longer than usual. Please keep calls for emergencies only.

**Advice:**

Emergency Management Southland continues to ask 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.

Do not attempt to sightsee by breaching police cordons and heading to the beach or shore areas.

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.

If you are heading to a welfare centre, think about what you need to take with you. Prepare to take your prescription medication, some form of identification, your phone and charger.

If you have left home without your prescription medication, please get a family member to contact your GP and organise a replacement supply.

**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.

**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

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