



Summer Weather Safety



**Wildfire – Drought – Hurricanes – Floods
Severe Weather – Rip Currents – Air Quality
– Heat – Lightning – Tsunami**



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/safety



Wildfire Safety



Preventing Wildfires

- Wildfires are most often started by lightning or humans.
- When camping, stay with your fire when lit, and make sure it is fully extinguished before leaving.
- Be smart and safe when burning debris. Keep the fire small and don't burn on windy days.
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking materials.



weather.gov/wildfire



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/safety



Wildfire Safety



Before a Wildfire

- Identify temporary housing for your family and pets in case you must evacuate.
- Plan a primary evacuation route and identify a secondary route in case the first is blocked.
- Select building materials and plants that are fire resistant.
- Create a family emergency plan and make a list of items you'll need to pack for evacuation.



[weather.gov/wildfire](https://www.weather.gov/wildfire)





Wildfire Safety



If Told to Evacuate:

- Follow instructions from local officials.
- Don't deviate from the identified evacuation route. Other roads may be blocked.
- If you have time to gather belongings, do so quickly. If you do not have time, leave and head for safety immediately.
- Contact your family and let them know you are okay.



[weather.gov/wildfire](https://www.weather.gov/wildfire)





Wildfire Safety



If You Encounter a Wildfire

- Drive or walk away from the smoke and flames immediately.
- Do not stop to watch or take pictures.
- Call 911.

WILDFIRE SAFETY

If you see a wildfire, you should walk or drive away from it immediately and call 911.

Don't approach it. Wildfires spread quickly and can change direction.

Remove yourself from danger first and then seek help.

911
Reporting a forest fire

www.firewise.org
www.weather.gov/wildfire

weather.gov/wildfire



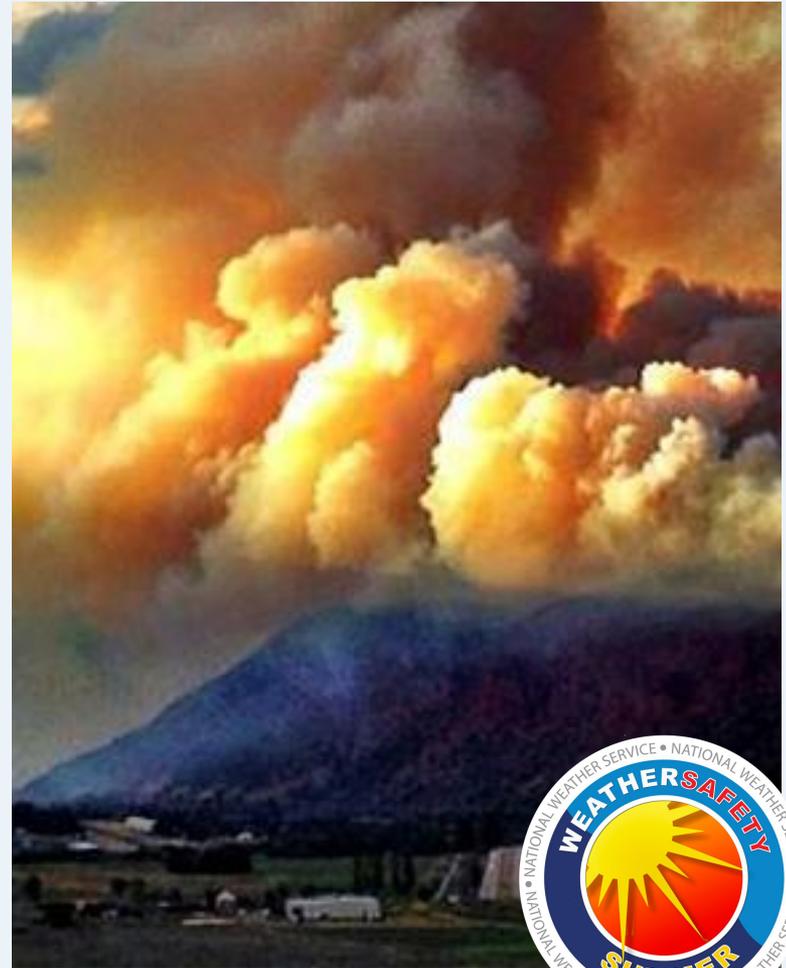


Wildfire Smoke Safety



What to do when smoke is impacting your area:

- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Keep air conditioner air intake closed and filter clean.
- Seek shelter elsewhere if it's too warm to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Don't add to indoor pollution by burning candles, smoking, etc.





Drought Safety



When water is scarce

- Water your lawn less frequently. If you must water your lawn, do so in the early morning/late evening.
- Mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation.
- Fix leaky sprinklers and adjust them so they only water your lawn not the house or sidewalk.
- Don't wash your car unless necessary for safety.



weather.gov/drought



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/safety



Drought Safety



When water is scarce

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth and shave.
- Install low flow showerheads.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- Only wash full loads of laundry.
- Use excess clean water for plants.



weather.gov/drought





Hurricane Safety



Preparing Your Family for a Hurricane

- Know if you live in a hurricane storm surge evacuation area.
- Know your home's vulnerability to flooding, wind, and storm surge.
- Understand NWS warnings and watches.
- Put together an emergency supply kit. Don't forget pet supplies.
- Create a family emergency plan.



weather.gov/hurricanesafety





Hurricane Safety



Preparing Your Home for a Hurricane

- Remove all lawn furniture and items that will blow around.
- Board up your windows with plywood or approved shutters.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Get cash
- Reinforce your garage door.
- Secure your boat.



[weather.gov/
hurricanesafety](https://www.weather.gov/hurricanesafety)



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/safety



Hurricane Safety



Before Evacuating for a Hurricane

- Have an evacuation plan that includes where you will go and what to pack.
- If you have a pet, identify shelters where they are accepted.
- Listen to evacuation orders, be prepared, and evacuate early. Don't wait until the last minute.
- Before you evacuate, turn off the gas, electricity, and water. Unplug appliances.



weather.gov/hurricanesafety





Hurricane Safety



When Evacuating for a Hurricane

- Take only what you need. Be sure to remember your medications and identification!
- Follow roads emergency workers are recommending, even if there is traffic. Other routes may be blocked. Drive carefully.
- Contact your family.



weather.gov/hurricanesafety





Flood Safety



Before a Flood

- Learn whether your home, school or workplace is at risk of flooding.
- Find alternate routes to important locations.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Follow evacuation orders.
- Keep an eye on the forecast by visiting weather.gov.



weather.gov/flood





Flood Safety



During a Flood

- Never drive or walk into flood waters.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Get to higher ground if your in a low spot.
- Get information from local TV/radio or your mobile phone.



weather.gov/flood





Flood Safety



After a Flood

- Avoid damaged areas and flood waters.
- Heed “road closed” and other cautionary signs.
- Wait for the “all clear” to enter a flood damaged structure.
- Contact your loved ones via text or social media to keep phone lines clear.



weather.gov/flood





Flood Safety



Turn Around Don't Drown®

- It is never safe to walk or drive through floodwaters.
- It only takes 6 inches of swift moving water to knock you off their feet and sweep you away.
- Just 12 inches of water can carry most small car away.
- Just 2 feet of water will lift most large vehicles.



weather.gov/flood





Tornado Safety



Before a Tornado

- Make sure all family members know the tornado safe location in your home.
- Store an emergency kit in your safe location.
- Identify where to go if you are at work or school.
- Make a family communications plan.





Tornado Safety



During a Tornado

- Go to a safe location away from windows on the lowest level of a sturdy building.
- If you are caught outside, get in a car, buckle up, and drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- Go to a storm shelter if you are in a mobile home.





Tornado Safety



After a Tornado

- Beware of downed power lines, broken gas lines, and sharp/dangerous debris.
- Avoid damaged areas.
- Stay off the roads to allow rescue workers clear passage.
- Follow official instructions.





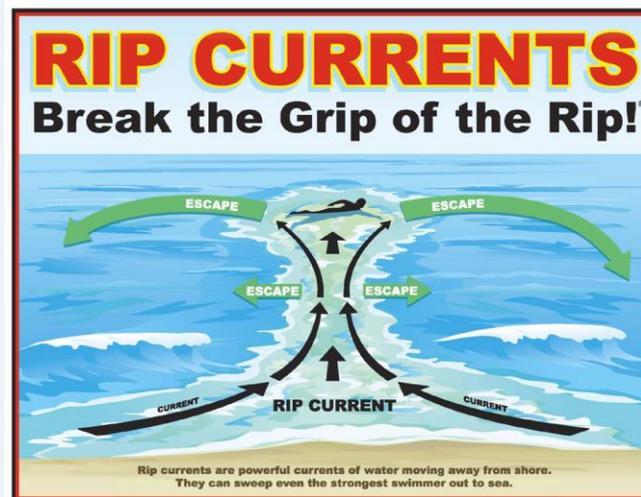
Rip Current Safety



Don't Get Caught by a Rip Current on Spring Break

- Only swim at beaches with lifeguards.
- Know how to swim and have a flotation device with you.
- Before you go, know how to spot a rip current and what to do if you are caught in a rip.

Visit www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov



IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

- ◆ Don't fight the current
- ◆ Swim out of the current, then to shore
- ◆ If you can't escape, float or tread water
- ◆ If you need help, call or wave for assistance

SAFETY

- ◆ Know how to swim
- ◆ Never swim alone
- ◆ If in doubt, don't go out

More information on rip currents can be found at www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov

www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov





Air Quality



Why Air Quality Matters

- Poor air quality is responsible for an estimated 60,000 premature deaths in the United States each year.
- Vehicles are responsible for harmful buildup of ground-level ozone, which can trigger health problems such as asthma.



airquality.weather.gov



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/safety



Air Quality



When Smoke is Impacting Your Area

- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Keep air conditioner intakes closed and filters clean.
- Avoid outdoor activities.



airquality.weather.gov





Heat Safety



Prepare for Heat

- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Apply sunscreen every two hours to avoid sun burns.
- Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Get help immediately if you or a friend have any symptoms.

www.weather.gov/heat





Heat Safety



During a Heat Wave

- Slow down: reschedule outdoor work and strenuous activities until the coolest time of the day.
- Children, seniors and anyone with health problems should stay in the coolest available place.



www.weather.gov/heat



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

weather.gov/safetycampaign

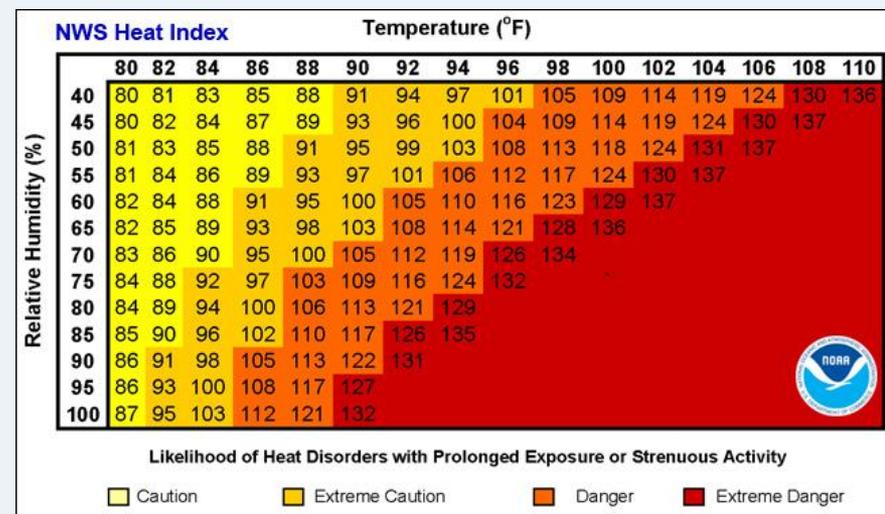


Heat Safety



Heat Index

- The Heat Index is a measure of how hot it really feels when relative humidity is factored in with the actual air temperature.
- The red area without numbers indicates extreme danger.



www.weather.gov/heat





Lightning Safety



Outside in Thunderstorm

There is NO safe place outside during a thunderstorm but these actions may *slightly* reduce your risk of being struck.

- Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top and stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects.
- Stay away from water, wet items, and metal objects.
- A tent, dugout or picnic shelter will not protect you from lightning.





Lightning Safety



Inside in a Thunderstorm

- Don't touch electrical equipment plugged into a wall such a computer or stove.
- Stay off corded phones and avoid plumbing.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.





Lightning Safety



Lightning and Vehicles

- Fully enclosed metal vehicles are safe during a thunderstorms. Motorbikes and other open vehicles aren't safe.
- Completely close all windows.
- Don't touch metal objects in car.
- If storm is intense or rain is heavy, pull over and turn on hazard lights.



What is a Tsunami

- A tsunami is a series of powerful waves and unusually strong currents.
- The first wave may not be the largest or most damaging.
- A tsunami can strike any ocean coast at any time and pose a serious threat to life and property on the coast.
- Even small tsunamis can be dangerous, especially to swimmers, surfers, and boats in harbors.

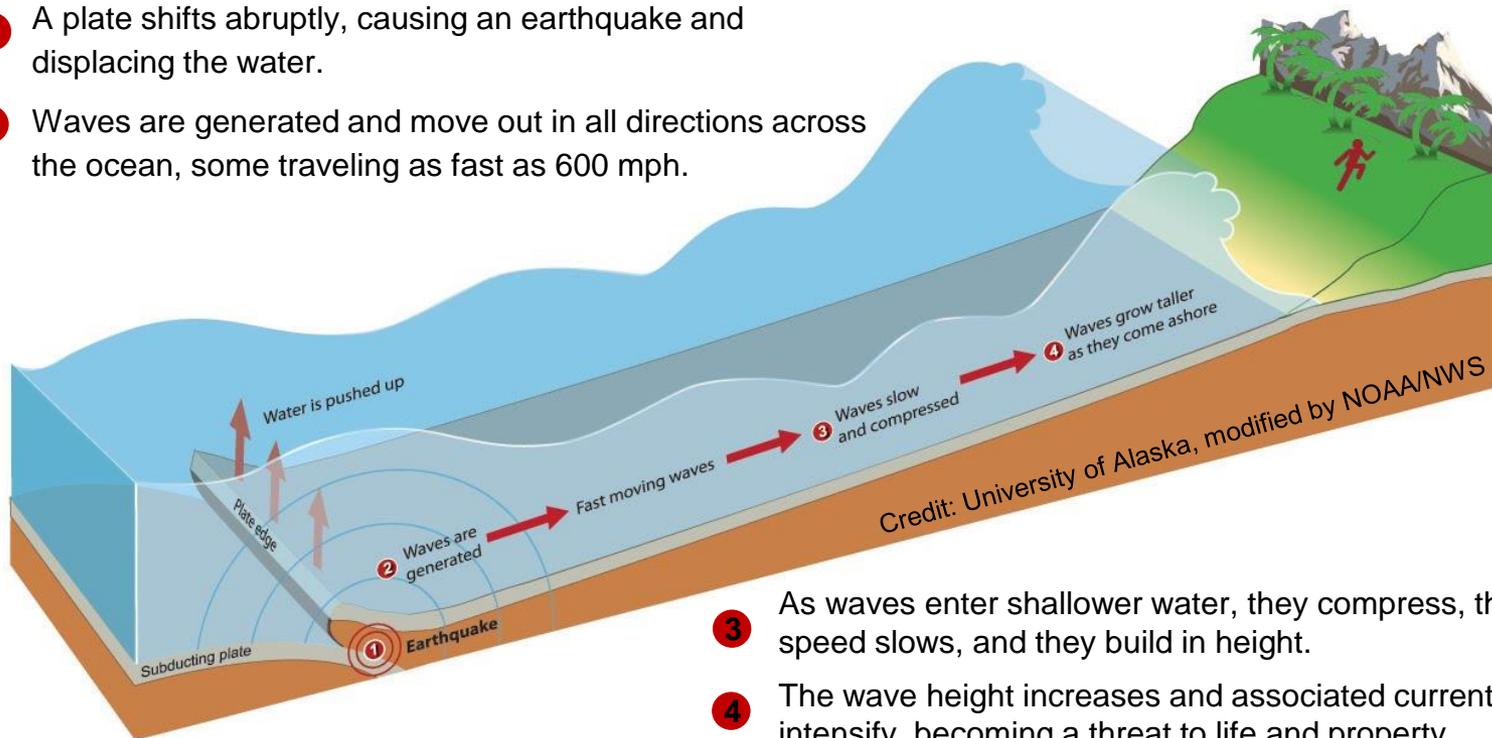


But, there are things you can do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe in the event of a tsunami!

How a Tsunami Works

Most tsunamis are caused by large earthquakes below or near the ocean floor, but they can also be caused by landslides, volcanic activity, weather, and meteorites.

- 1 A plate shifts abruptly, causing an earthquake and displacing the water.
- 2 Waves are generated and move out in all directions across the ocean, some traveling as fast as 600 mph.



- 3 As waves enter shallower water, they compress, their speed slows, and they build in height.
- 4 The wave height increases and associated currents intensify, becoming a threat to life and property.



Tsunami Preparedness



Understand U.S. Tsunami Alerts

Official warnings are broadcast through radio, TV, and wireless emergency alerts. They may also come through outdoor sirens, officials, text message alerts, and telephone notifications.

Warning

Take Action—Danger! A tsunami that may cause widespread flooding is expected or occurring. Dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents are possible and may continue for several hours or days after initial arrival. **Follow instructions from local officials. Evacuation is recommended. Move to high ground or inland.**

Watch

Be Aware—A distant earthquake has occurred. A tsunami is possible. Stay tuned for more information. **Be prepared to take action if necessary.**

Advisory

Take Action—A tsunami with potential for strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected or occurring. There may be flooding of beach and harbor areas. **Stay out of the water and away from beaches and waterways. Follow instructions from local officials.**

Information Statement

Relax—An earthquake has occurred, or a tsunami warning, advisory or watch has been issued for another part of the ocean. Most information statements indicate there is no threat of a destructive tsunami.

Note: Tsunami warnings, advisories, and watches may be updated or cancelled as information becomes available. Advisories and watches may be upgraded if the threat is determined to be greater than originally thought.

www.tsunami.gov



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

www.weather.gov/tsunamisafety



Tsunami Preparedness



Watch for Natural Warnings!

If you are in a tsunami zone, don't wait for an official warning if you:

- Feel a strong or long earthquake.
- See a sudden rise or fall of the ocean.
- Hear a loud roar from the ocean.

If you see any of these natural alerts:

- Get out of the water and off the beach.
- Move inland and uphill.
- If in a reinforced steel tall building, go to highest floor.
- Stay out of the tsunami hazard zone until officials say it is safe.



Photo: COMET



Prepare for a Tsunami

These simple steps could save your life and the lives of those you care about.

If your home, school, workplace, or other places you visit often are in tsunami hazard zones:

- Have multiple ways to receive warnings.
- Make an emergency plan; include family communication and evacuation plans.
- Map out routes to safe places on high ground or inland; practice walking them to make them familiar.
- Put together portable disaster supplies kits for home, work, and cars.

If you are visiting the coast, find out about local tsunami safety. Your hotel or campground should have this information.



Make a plan

Credit: FEMA



Practice evacuation

Be a role model. Share your knowledge and plans with others!