



*Oclucje*

# Tsunami Evacuation Guide

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**To Learn More:**



**[srd.ca/tsunami](http://srd.ca/tsunami)**



**250-830-6702**



**[preparedness@srd.ca](mailto:preparedness@srd.ca)**





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*Cover art: Abby Forth*

# About this Guide

Tsunamis are series of long, surge-like waves usually resulting from a large, sudden displacement of the ocean floor during an earthquake. They contain considerable energy and can travel further inland than ordinary waves. Tsunamis that affect this coastline can originate from both local and distant earthquakes, and both types pose a high risk to Oclucje.

The purpose of this guide is to share the recommended protective actions to take during both distant and local tsunamis.

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## SRD Emergency Notifications



Download the *Alertable* app and set up account to receive emergency notifications by text, call, and other methods at [www.srd.ca/alert](http://www.srd.ca/alert)

# Local (Cascadia) Tsunamis

Earthquakes along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ), which runs north-south off the west coast of Vancouver Island, pose the most significant tsunami threat to Oclucje. All buildings in Oclucje are susceptible to damage from a CSZ earthquake, and 3+ buildings may be inundated by the resulting tsunami waves.

Following a CSZ earthquake, you will likely need to evacuate to high ground by foot or bicycle/dirt bike, as roads and bridges may be severely damaged.

## How high could the tsunami be?

Up to 9.2 meters (30.2 feet) tall

## When will tsunamis arrive?

38 minutes after the CSZ earthquake





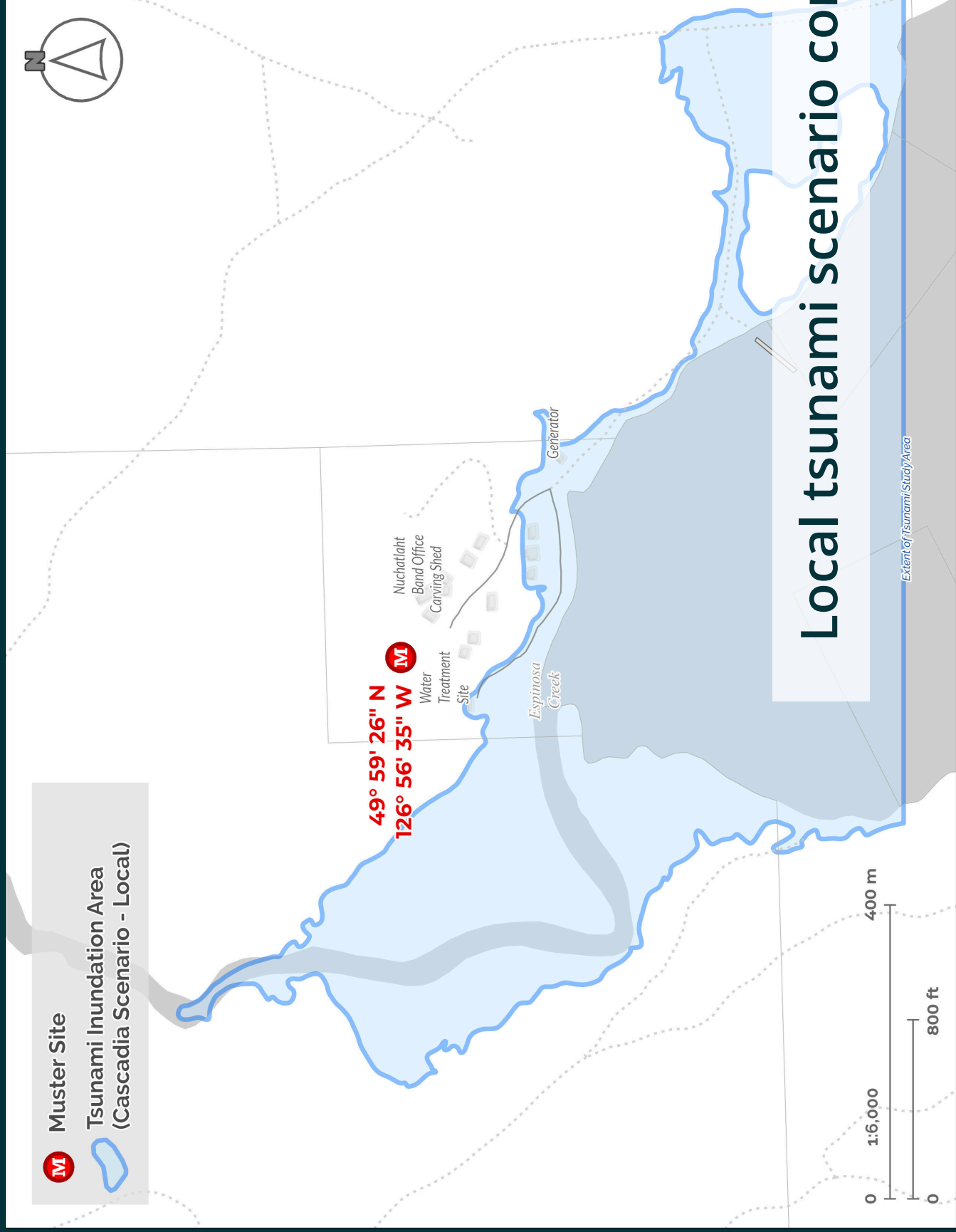
# Evacuating From a Local Tsunami

- 1** Drop, cover and hold on during the earthquake.
- 2** If you feel strong ground shaking, notice a sudden change in sea level, hear loud roaring from the ocean, or are knocked off your feet, SEEK HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY, as this means tsunamis are coming. "If it knocks you down, get to high ground."
- 3** Save yourself, not your possessions. Help neighbours and those needing special assistance. Bring all your emergency supplies that you can realistically carry (ideally already packed in your evacuation bag).
- 4** While evacuating, stay away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and overhead lines. Crouch down and cover your head while you are moving.
- 5** The designated Tsunami Muster Site is by the sea cans at the Administration Office. If possible, evacuate to that location, because that is where the emergency provisions are stored. If it's not possible to reach the Muster Site, get high uphill wherever you can.









## Local tsunami scenario cont.

# Distant (Alaskan) Tsunamis

Earthquakes on the Alaska-Aleutian Subduction Zone (AASZ) pose the second-highest tsunami risk to Ocluje. No buildings in Ocluje are in the Alaskan tsunami inundation zone.

In the event of a distant tsunami, emergency personnel will make every effort to notify you via:

- ◆ Marine Radio Channel 16
- ◆ Door-to-Door Notifications
- ◆ Tsunami Warning Siren (located at the Administration Office)
- ◆ Environment Canada Weather Radio
- ◆ Alertable (see page 1)
- ◆ Alert Ready (broadcast on TV, radio, and on compatible cell phones via push notifications)

## How high could the tsunami be?

Up to 3.4 meters (11.2 feet) tall

## When will tsunamis arrive?

3 hours and 20 minutes after an AASZ earthquake



# Evacuating From a Distant Tsunami

- 1 Receive the tsunami warning.
- 2 Grab your evacuation kit for each member of your family, including pets. The kits should be adapted to your needs, but kept light and manageable.
- 3 Check on your neighbours and those who may need special assistance, such as Elders.
- 4 If using a vehicle to evacuate, stay calm and evacuate via the Zeballos Forest Service Road (FSR). Offer rides to those in need. If evacuating without a vehicle, go to either of the primary Tsunami Muster Sites adjacent to the FSR and emergency personnel will arrange transportation for you.

Ensure your Household Emergency Plan includes a list of friends and family members you could stay with during an evacuation. Emergency Services will communicate through Alertable if and when reception centres become operational.

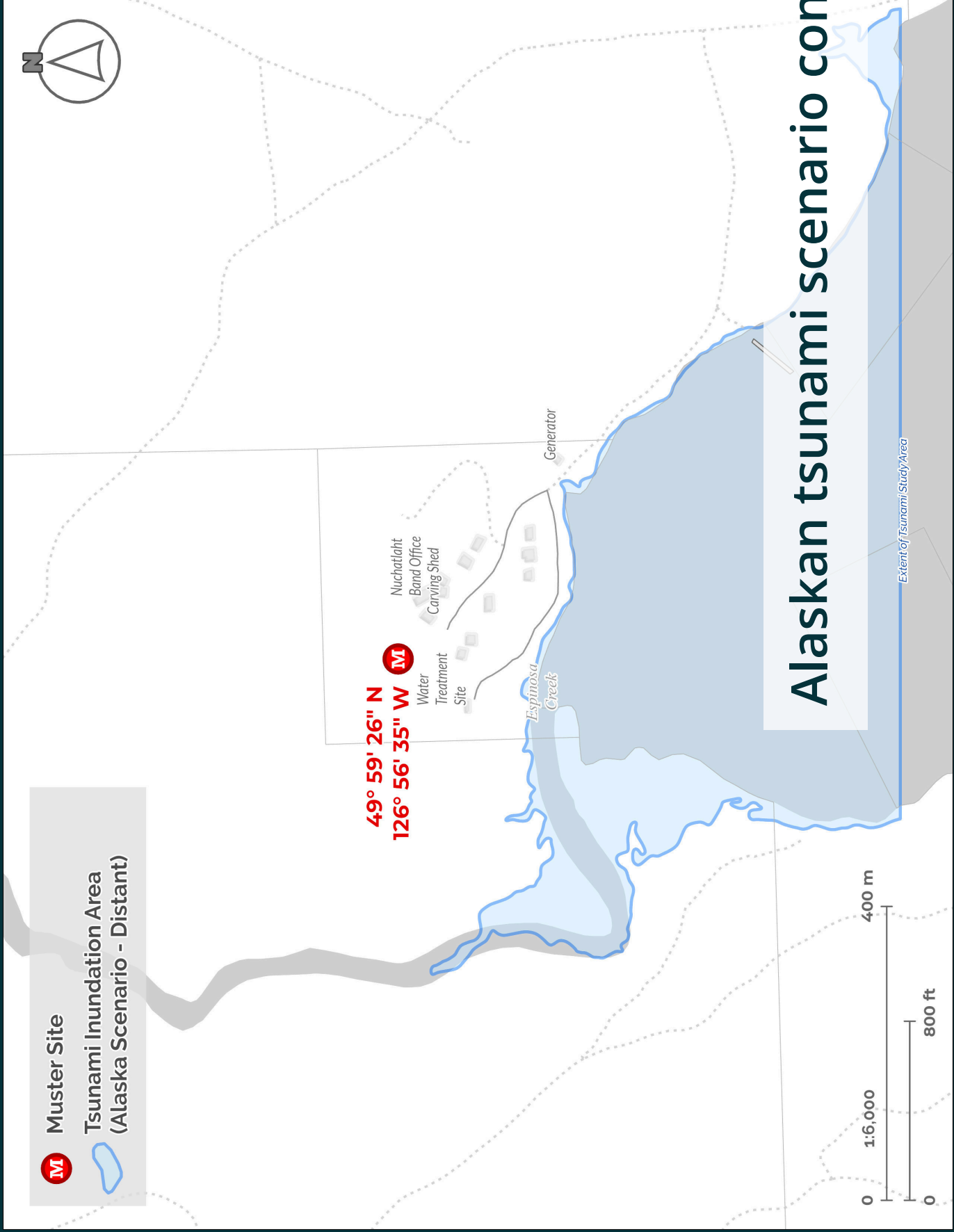
Create a profile at <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>, then contact **250-203-1972** or [ess@srd.ca](mailto:ess@srd.ca) to be connected with ESS. Please note that a distant Alaskan tsunami will displace many residents on the west coast of Vancouver Island. We thank you in advance for your patience.

- 5 Stay tuned for updates and please follow the instructions of emergency personnel.









## Alaskan tsunami scenario cont.

# Interpreting Tsunami Alert Levels

**!** In the event of a distant tsunami, you will likely receive an official alert. Most of the information in this guide is for a Distant Tsunami *Warning* scenario: instructions for what to do *when* a tsunami is coming.

If a distant tsunami *is possible* but not confirmed, you may receive a Tsunami Advisory, Watch, or Information Statement notification via Alertable. Read the information below to learn what to expect and how to stay safe in each scenario.

## TSUNAMI ALERT LEVELS EXPLAINED



LEVEL	THREAT	ACTION
<b>WARNING</b>	Dangerous coastal flooding & powerful currents are imminent. West coast communities will be flooded.	Go to high ground immediately. If possible, evacuate to muster site.
<b>ADVISORY</b>	An advisory is issued due to the threat of a tsunami with potential to produce strong, dangerous currents.	Stay out of water & above high tide line. Secure boats.
<b>WATCH</b>	A distant earthquake has occurred, and a tsunami is possible. Danger level is not yet known.	Stay alert for more information. Know your evacuation route.
<b>INFORMATION STATEMENT</b>	An earthquake has occurred, but there is no threat of a destructive tsunami. Minor waves at most.	No action required at this time.
<b>CANCELLATION</b>	Cancels any previously-issued tsunami messages. Evidence of tsunami waves no longer observed at tide stations.	Resume normal activities.



**Want to receive tsunami notifications?**

Sign up to receive free emergency alerts at [www.srd.ca/alerts](http://www.srd.ca/alerts) and download the free Alertable app.



# During an Earthquake

## **If in bed:**

- ◆ Stay in bed.
- ◆ Cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- ◆ Avoid moving around, as hazards and debris are difficult to see in the dark, and this may result in more injuries.

## **If outside:**

- ◆ Get into the open away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.
- ◆ Once in the open, “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.”
- ◆ Stay put until the shaking stops.

## **If you are in a moving vehicle:**

- ◆ Stop the vehicle as quickly and safely as possible and stay in the vehicle.
- ◆ Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.
- ◆ Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped.
- ◆ Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that the earthquake may have damaged.



# TSUNAMI BOATER SAFETY

Prior to arrival of the March 11, 2011 tsunami along the California coast, many boat owners took their boats offshore without adequate supplies or knowledge of how long they would need to stay offshore. As a result, boaters tried to re-enter harbors too early, while dangerous tsunami conditions still existed. They put themselves and harbor personnel at risk of injury and death. If you do not have a long-term supplies of essential disaster preparedness items in your boat, **DO NOT** attempt to take your boat offshore.

**Secure your boat to the dock and leave the dock area before the tsunami arrives.**

## WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

A tsunami is a series of water surges usually caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. These can cause strong, dangerous currents inside harbors and bays.

### TSUNAMIS CAN TRICK YOU!

- The first surge may not be the largest.
- It is not unusual for tsunami surges to continue for days afterwards and in some cases much longer.
- Just when you think it is all over, another very large surge may come.

## 2 ways to know if a tsunami is coming:

### \*Natural Warnings\*

On shore: GROUND SHAKING, a LOUD OCEAN ROAR, or the WATER RECEDING UNUSUALLY FAR exposing the sea floor.

On the water: You may still feel the earthquake through the hull of your boat. You could see a rapid and extreme shift to an outgoing tide.

### \*Official Warnings\*

On shore: You may hear an outdoor siren.

On the water: You may receive a Tsunami Advisory or Warning on your marine VHF radio's CHANNEL 16 or weather frequency (as long as your radio has the Alert feature).

## There are a number of TSUNAMI HAZARDS that could affect boats/boaters:

- Sudden water-level fluctuations Boats that hit bottom as water level drops
- Strong and unpredictable currents Tsunami bores and amplified waves
- Eddies/whirlpools
- Drag on large keeled boat
- Collision with boats, docks, and debris

## What to do if you receive a warning?

### IF ON LAND

or tied up at the dock  
Leave your boat and go to high ground on foot as soon as possible. You don't have time to save your boat in this situation and could die if you try to do so. If you are on the water but very near shore

### IF IN SHALLOW WATER

If you can beach or dock your boat and get to high ground on foot, then this is your best chance. If that is not possible, head to deep water as quickly as possible.

### IF IN DEEP WATER

or very close, take your vessel further offshore beyond a depth of at least 100 meters (328 feet).

**After a major earthquake**  
For a locally-generated tsunami from a major earthquake, there will be no time to motor a boat into deep water because waves can come ashore within minutes. Leave your boat at the pier and physically move to higher ground.

## Should you take your boat OFFSHORE?

The answer to this question depends on:

1. The SIZE of the tsunami.
2. How much TIME you have.
3. The PREPAREDNESS of the boat/
4. The WEATHER at sea could be as dangerous as the tsunami itself.

## Note for trailer boat owners:

Expect congested boat ramps and remember that you have to get your boat to the trailer, out of the water, and out of the tsunami zone before the tsunami arrives.

For more information on the Tsunami risk in this area please visit [www.srd.ca/tsunami-mapping](http://www.srd.ca/tsunami-mapping)

## ENTERING



## Strathcona

REGIONAL DISTRICT





# Protect Yourself During Earthquakes!

**IF  
POSSIBLE**



**USING  
CANE**



**USING  
WALKER**



**USING  
WHEELCHAIR**



Earthquake  
Country  
Alliance  
We're all in this together.

[www.EarthquakeCountry.org/disability](http://www.EarthquakeCountry.org/disability)

**Want more information?**  
Contact [preparedness@srd.ca](mailto:preparedness@srd.ca) or  
250-830-6702 to learn more.



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