

Template for a Tsunami WalkOut

What Is A Tsunami WalkOut?

A tsunami WalkOut is a drill that stresses simplicity and fun, and is suitable for coastal residents or visitors. WalkOut participants will discover that there are tsunami danger zones and tsunami safe zones - and that they can walk from one to the other! They will learn how easy it can be to get safe.

The visual memory of making the walk provides a powerful, long-lasting boost to tsunami awareness. The lighthearted event helps many people reduce their fear and hear the underlying serious message.

It's Your Event

In this document are ideas to help you stage a tsunami WalkOut in your community. Feel free to change anything, including the name! Expect to adjust and embellish as you tailor the event to your situation. Let us know what you do, and how it goes!

For the most basic WalkOut, you will:

- select a route that starts in a tsunami danger zone and ends in a safe zone;
- set a date and time; and
- publicize your event.

Optionally, you might also:

- *Invite local leaders and officials to lead the walk;*
- *Engage CERT or Red Cross to help organize your event;*
- *Coordinate with school drills;*
- *Come up with a slogan like "Walk Out, Don't Wipe Out";*
- *Color-code the walk with blue chalk or painter's tape, to emphasize which areas could get wet during a tsunami's inundation;*
- *Plan the walk to emphasize existing tsunami signs;*
- *Stage light-hearted contests for participants:*
 - *Give prizes for biggest group of participants or cleverest costume;*
 - *Hold a treasure hunt along the route;*
- *For those who conclude the walk:*
 - *provide handouts or goodies;*
 - *hold a concert or carnival.*

Plan It

Select: date, time and duration.

(Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 27 - April 2, 2016.)

Select: a route.

(Your building manager, school district, city or county offices may already have recommended procedures or evacuation routes.)

Select: start and end points.

(It helps to use well-known locations such as beaches, parks or schools.)

Test: walk your route and adjust your event as needed.

(Watch for potential hazards that might make your walk unsafe.)

Decide: pedestrians only? (Allow bikes? scooters? skateboards? cars?).

(During a real tsunami warning, it is safest for people to evacuate by foot.)

Decide: register participants?

(Registration is more work but provides so much useful info!)

Identify: tie-ins.

(Can your walk coordinate with existing events? signage? safety efforts?)

List: any advance requirements?

(These could include permits, security, or "road closed" signs.)

Optional:

Invite: local dignitaries or celebrities to lead the walk.

(These might include the heads of fire, police, emergency management, faith-based organizations, business owners, community activists.)

Enlist: sponsors, donors, volunteers.

(You'll need these if you have handouts, events, or prizes.)

Organize: volunteers.

(They can color-code the walk, stage contests, distribute handouts.)

Publicize It

As soon as you nail down your event's date and time, its starting point, and perhaps a few dignitaries, start spreading the news.

Optional:

Targeted Invites: *Are there groups to invite such as CERT teams, community groups, classrooms?*

Contests for Participation: *Will there be prizes for the largest groups?*

Tell Us About It

We want to hear from you:

- Who was there?
- How many participated?
- What did you do?
- What went well and what would you do differently next time?

- Will you do it again?
- Any feedback, anecdotes or photos you can share?

Contact us: info@shakeout.org

On-Line Resources

Read about past tsunami walks and drills:

2013 San Francisco Tsunami Walk

em4sf.wordpress.com/2013/03/19/step-up-literally-san-francisco/

2013 Manila, CA Tsunami Drill

cascadiageo.org/?page_id=144

www.facebook.com/events/312010938924348/

2012 King Salmon Tsunami Drill

times-standard.com/lifestyle/ci_19699949

2012 Tiburon/Belvedere Tsunami Drill

getthetash.com/tsunami-evacuation-exercise-in-tiburon-ca-may-10th-2012/

2010 Crescent City Tsunami Drill

times-standard.com/ci_22871787/ready-drill-officials-test-tsunami-warning-system-wednesday

Download official State of California Tsunami Hazard Zone Maps:

quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/tsunamimaps.htm

Learn about tsunamis:

tsunami.noaa.gov

www.tsunami.ca.gov

calema.ca.gov/PlanningandPreparedness/Pages/Tsunami-Preparedness.aspx

WalkOut Registration Site: www.tsunamizone.org