

# WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

- **Tsunami (soo-NAH-mee) is a Japanese word meaning harbor wave.**
- **A tsunami is a series of waves with a long wavelength generated by a large, impulsive displacement of sea water. (Earthquake)**
- **Time between crests of the wave can vary from a few minutes to over an hour.**
- **Tsunamis are also triggered by landslides into or under the water surface, and can be generated by volcanic activity and meteorite impacts.**
- **Tsunamis travel approximately 475 mph in 15,000 feet of water. In 100 feet of water the velocity drops to about 40 mph.**
- **Tsunamis range in size from inches to over a hundred feet.**
- **Normally, a tsunami appears as a rapidly receding tide. If you see tide receding head for high ground immediately.**
- **In some cases a bore (wall of water) or series of breaking waves may form.**