Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the best place to get information in the event of an emergency?

Local information is best. The following are available information sources:

- The newly initiated Alert Notification System to landlines, and application for cell phone/ email users will be regularly updated in the event of a potential emergency or hazard. Sign up, here: **princerupert.ca/emergency**; or by filling out a form at City Hall, the Recreation Complex, the Public Library, or other participating locations.
- The City's website and social media platforms. Check **princerupert.ca** or follow City of Prince Rupert on Facebook and Twitter;
- The local 311 (extension 1) information line;
- And, local TV and radio stations.

How does local government respond in the event of a tsunami-related emergency?

Should a coastal earthquake occur, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) sends notification to local area communities through their emergency personnel and service stations regarding any potential tsunami hazard. This triggers emergency response personnel in Prince Rupert to activate our local Emergency Response Plan, and respond according to the level and type of hazard. When necessary, the local Fire Department and RCMP set up an Emergency Operations Centre – which monitors risk, liaises with Provincial and Federal emergency response organizations and local stakeholders, and directs action for local emergency personnel, as well as emergency communications.

What is the greatest risk a tsunami poses to Prince Rupert?

Prince Rupert is a relatively sheltered community from large wave events, due to the number of outlying islands. Rather than a major wave event, the greater risk to Prince Rupert is flooding in low-lying areas, which includes the local waterfront. Low-lying areas are priorities for evacuation in the event of a tsunami-related flood event. The elevation above sea level of the majority of residential homes means that there are relatively small areas flagged for emergency evacuation. If you are in an evacuation area identified in the inside map, it is highly recommended to plan an emergency evacuation route for you and your family.

What will happen in the case of a serious emergency?

In the event of a serious emergency, the Mayor will call a State of Local Emergency as recommended by emergency officials. If this happens, or if an area of the community is evacuated, the muster station for residents is at the local Recreation Complex (Jim Ciccone Civic Centre), where Emergency Social Service programming is administered. Emergency personnel may alter the location of the muster station if necessary. Any change to the muster location will be provided in public notifications (text/automated call/email notification, door to door evacuation notices, and online/radio messaging, as available) regarding evacuations.

Additional Resources:

Information on Alert Levels and preparedness is available via Emergency Management BC at: https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/ or follow them on Twitter at @EmergencyInfoBC

Environment Canada: https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/

For information on coastal earthquake and tsunami events in the wider region, see: http://tsunami.gov/

For information on what you and your family can do to prepare for an earthquake, see: https://www.shakeoutbc.ca/

Resident Evacuation and Safety Procedures for both Distant *and* Local Tsunamis

(See inside page for description of the difference between distant and local tsunamis.)

In the event of an emergency evacuation...

- **Do not leave Kaien Island** until instructed that it is safe to do so by local emergency officials, and stay away from potentially hazardous areas such as the waterfront and Skeena river. Tsunamis often follow water channels meaning flooding and inundation can persist for several hours. Local officials must inspect all flooded or earthquake-damaged structures before anyone can return to them.
- Evacuate on foot if at all possible because of probable traffic congestion. Clear roadways mean emergency crews can respond faster.
- Emergency personnel will be mobilized to notify and assist evacuees in the evacuation zone in the event of an emergency. However, in the event of a severe local earthquake and tsunami hazard, emergency personnel may not have time to assist evacuees. If you feel an earthquake, proceed to high ground (see map) as quickly as you are able. It is highly suggested to **make a plan and be prepared.**

SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS!

All residents who would like to sign up must register for emergency updates at **princerupert.ca/emergency** or by filling out a form at City Hall, the Recreation Complex, the Public Library, or other participating locations. Residents may also download the municipal app for emergency and other local notifications at **princerupert.ca/emergency** or by searching "Prince Rupert in your mobile app store.

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

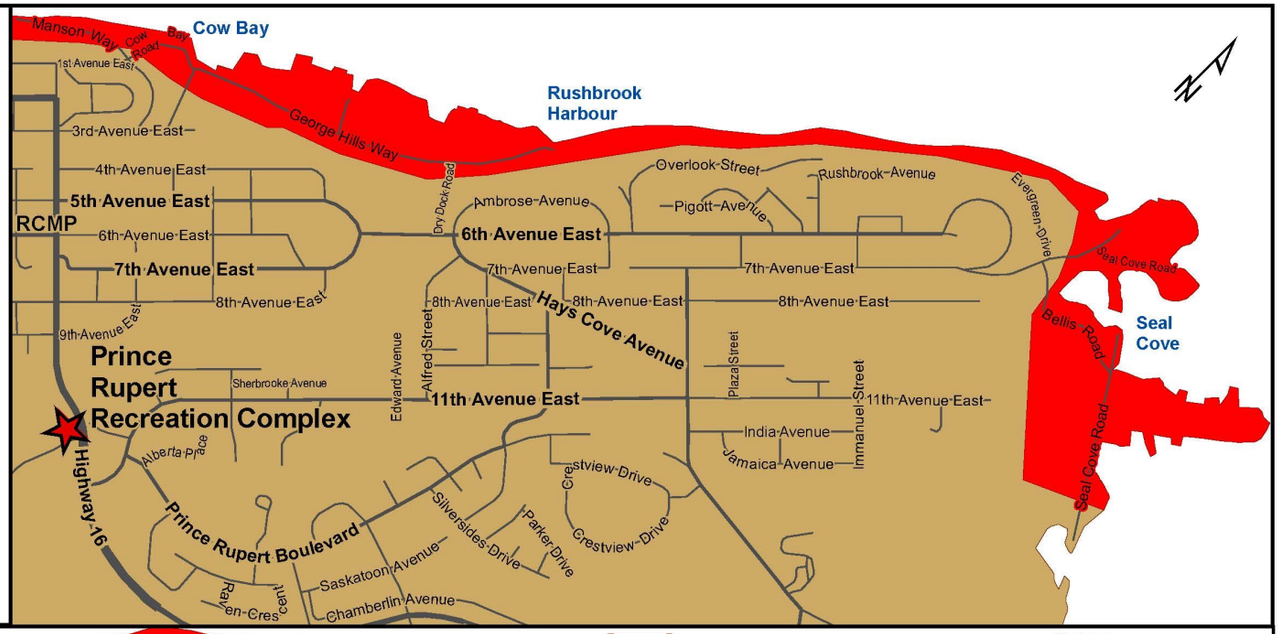
TSUNAMI EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

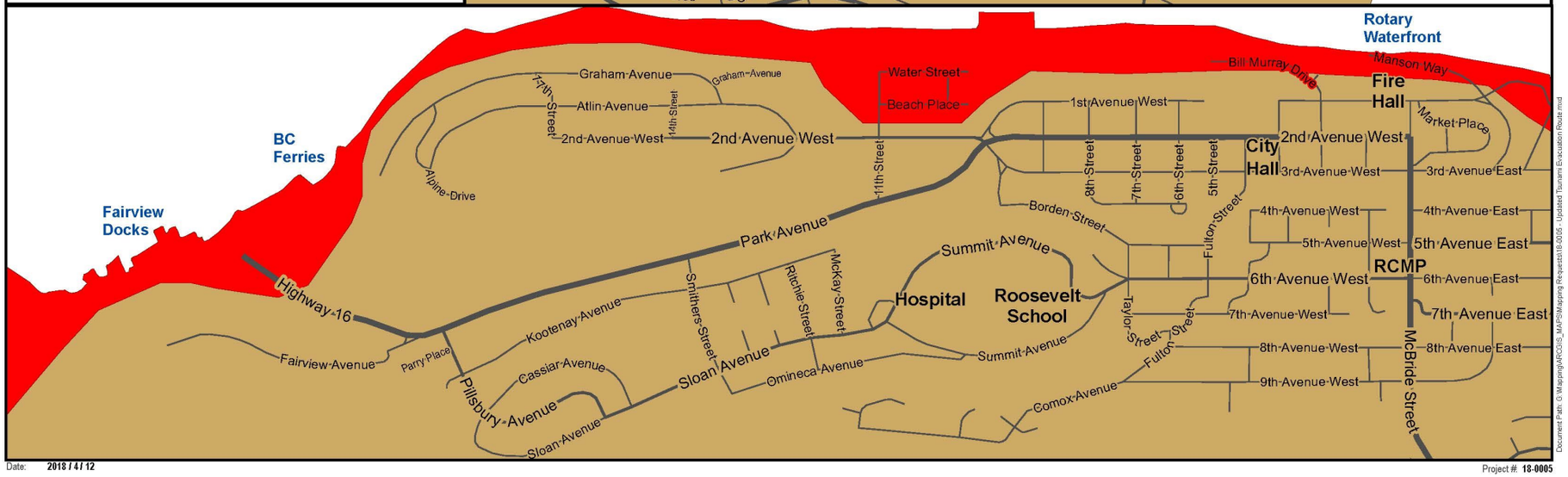
Please note—Prince Rupert has a more limited area of evacuation and flood risk due to the local geography and the associated elevation of residential development.

Assembly Area

Tsunami Advisory Zone

High Ground





Date: 2018 / 4 / 12

Project # 18-0005

Document Path: G:\Mapping\ARCGIS_MAPS\Mapping Requests\18-0005 - Updated Tsunami Evacuation Route.mxd

How to Use the Planning + Evacuation Map

1. Use the map to the left to locate your home and determine if you are in the tsunami advisory zone.
2. If your home is outside of the advisory zone, be prepared to receive community members in need of shelter.
3. If your home is in the tsunami advisory zone, use the map or local alerting system to locate an assembly area and proceed to high ground (see map).
4. Identify the route you would walk or drive to reach safety. If at all possible, evacuation on foot is preferred to prevent traffic congestion, hampering emergency crews.
5. Identify a safe route from your place of work or school, as well as common recreational facilities.
6. Discuss the tsunami hazard with your family and coworkers. Everyone should know what to do when a tsunami follows a major earthquake.

What to know about tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of sea waves usually caused by a displacement of the ocean floor by an undersea earthquake, or through a major landslide event. As tsunamis enter shallow water near land, they increase in height and can cause great loss of life and property damage.

We distinguish between a tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake near the coast **(local tsunami)** and an undersea earthquake far away from the coast **(distant tsunami).**

A **local tsunami** could arrive on shore within minutes after an earthquake. There will likely be no time for an official warning. Ground shaking will be the only warning you have. Evacuate quickly!

A **distant tsunami** may take hours to come ashore and will generate different levels of alert, depending on the risk. Listen to your local emergency official channels for direction.

If you feel an Earthquake

- Protect yourself: Drop, cover and hold until the earthquake is over.
- Move quickly inland to high ground and away from low-lying areas. Go on foot if at all possible. **Do not leave Kaien Island**.
- Do not wait for an official warning, as official communications channels may be damaged.
- Do not pack belongings or delay evacuation.
- Do not return to or go towards the shoreline.
- Never return to evacuation/low-lying areas before an 'all clear' has been issued through official local channels.