

# Waves hit Humboldt

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Tsunami waves generated by Japan's 8.9 magnitude earthquake have started hitting the shores of Humboldt Bay.

While the first wave hit about 7:30 a.m. this morning, meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Eureka are estimating that peak waves will hit between 9:30 a.m. and noon. The series of waves are expected to last for eight to ten hours.

Meteorologist Sten Tjaden said the first wave in a tsunami event is not usually the largest, so residents should continue to be cautious.

"We're not expecting any great impacts in the bay other than the increased current from the wave coming in and going out, but definitely, we want people to stay away from the beaches and low lying areas," he said. "The biggest impacts are going to be in Crescent City."

Tjaden said the first wave in Crescent City measured a little over three feet with a draw down of 5.8 feet. Damages are reported, the extent of which are unclear.

A respite center is being set up at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds in Eureka, said Red Cross Community Education Liaison Linda Nellist, adding that everyone is invited to come to the center for updates.

"Folks are welcome to come and stay to get good information if they are not comfortable at their home or business," Nellist said. "This is what we've been preparing for many years. You just never know when something like this going to happen."

Volunteers for the Red Cross have been working from home since around 1 a.m., Nellist said, and were in the office by 5 a.m. Nellist said she expected the respite center to be open before 10 a.m.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. said the Humboldt Bay Generating Station is back online.