

# San Mateo County Sheriff's Office



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Tsunami Advisory – Stay Away from the Ocean**

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. – San Mateo County residents and visitors are urged to stay away from the ocean until the late afternoon today due to hazardous waves.

The National Weather Service has issued a tsunami advisory for the California coast following a major earthquake in Chile. Strong currents and “wave fluctuation” of up to 3.3 feet in Half Moon Bay and 1.6 feet in Pacifica could begin around 1 p.m. and last several hours.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, County Parks Department, San Mateo County Harbor District, State Parks, the cities of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay are closing beaches and alerting people to stay out of the water and away from the coast.

“Persons in tsunami advisory areas should move out of the water, off the beach and out of harbors and marinas,” according to a tsunami advisory bulletin from the National Weather Service.

“Tsunami advisories mean that a tsunami capable of producing strong currents or waves dangerous to persons in or very near the water is imminent or expected,” the Weather Service said. “Significant widespread inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory.”

Currents may be hazardous for several hours after the initial wave arrival.

No general evacuations are required at this time.

For the latest information from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/>

National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

Tsunami Frequently Asked Questions:  
<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/faq.php>

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Release Date: February 27, 2010

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