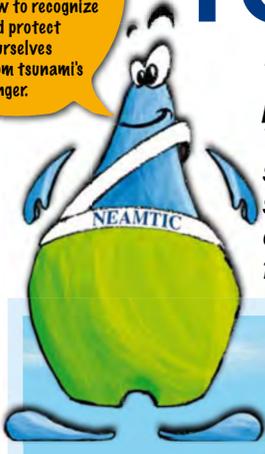


# WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

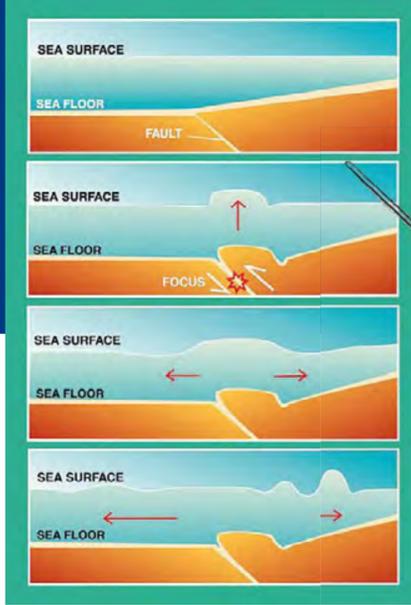
Hi guys I'm your friend, the NEAMTIC SEA PROP. I'll show you how to recognize and protect yourselves from tsunami's danger.



This poster draws public-safety lessons from previous experiences with fast-arriving tsunamis. Tsunamis can be detected using our human senses. Recognize a tsunami's natural warning signs. Be aware of tsunami facts. This knowledge could save your life! Share this knowledge with family and friends. It could save their lives!

## NEAMTIC

NORTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER



**1** Not all earthquakes cause tsunamis, but many do. When you know that an earthquake has occurred, stand by for a tsunami emergency message.



A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean. A tsunami propagation velocity is reduced in shallow water while the height of its waves rapidly increase. On the coastline the speed of tsunami waves is like a running horse



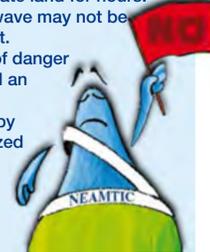
**2** An earthquake in your area is one of nature's tsunami warning signals. Do not stay in low-lying coastal areas after a strong earthquake has been felt.



**3** Tsunamis are sometimes preceded by a noticeable and rapid fall (several minutes only) in sea level as the ocean retreats seaward exposing the seafloor. A roar like an oncoming train may sometimes be heard as the tsunami wave rushes toward the shore. These are also nature's tsunami warning signals.



**4** A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of waves carrying a massive volume of water that can flood and inundate land for hours. The first wave may not be the largest. Stay out of danger areas until an "all-clear" is issued by a recognized authority.



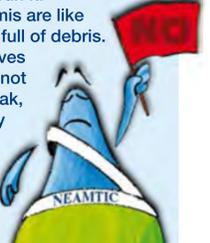
**5** Small tsunami at one point on the shore can be extremely large a few kilometers away.



**6/7** All warnings to the public must be taken very seriously, even if some are for non-destructive events. All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike.



**8** Never go down to the shore to watch for a tsunami. When you can see the wave, you are too close to outrun it. Most tsunamis are like flash floods full of debris. Tsunami waves typically do not curl and break, so do not try to surf a tsunami.



**9** If you live in a coastal area, be prepared and know nature's tsunami warning signals.

## THE (HAPPY) END

Although less frequent than in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, tsunamis can hit the Mediterranean and North East Atlantic coastal areas. Major tsunamis happened for example in 365 (Crete), in 1755 (Portugal, Cadiz Gulf and Morocco), in 1908 (Massina and Calabria), in 1956 (Aegean Sea).

Even recently a tsunami has been impacted in 1999 Izmit Bay (Turkey), 2002 Stromboli (Italy) and 2003 Algeria and Balearic islands (Spain).

**10** During a tsunami emergency, your local civil defense, police, and other emergency organizations will try to save your life. Give them your fullest cooperation.

