

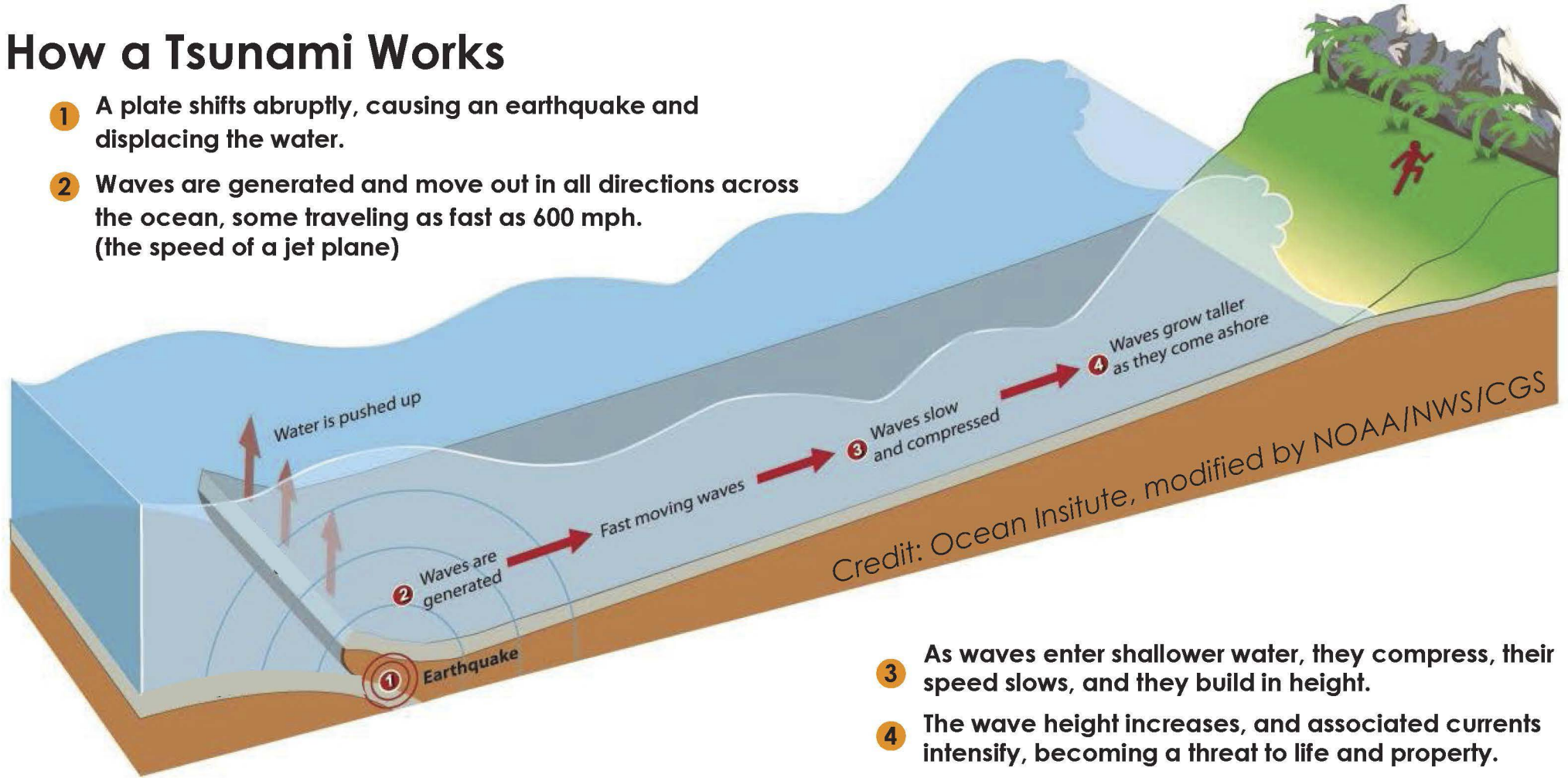
# Can I surf a tsunami?

Enjoy California's wonderful coastline! But whether you live, work, or visit, it is important to be aware that our coastline is vulnerable to dangerous conditions and damage caused by tsunami.

Most tsunamis are caused by large earthquakes below the ocean floor, but they can also be caused by landslides, volcanic activity, certain types of weather, and asteroids or comets.

## How a Tsunami Works

- 1 A plate shifts abruptly, causing an earthquake and displacing the water.
- 2 Waves are generated and move out in all directions across the ocean, some traveling as fast as 600 mph. (the speed of a jet plane)

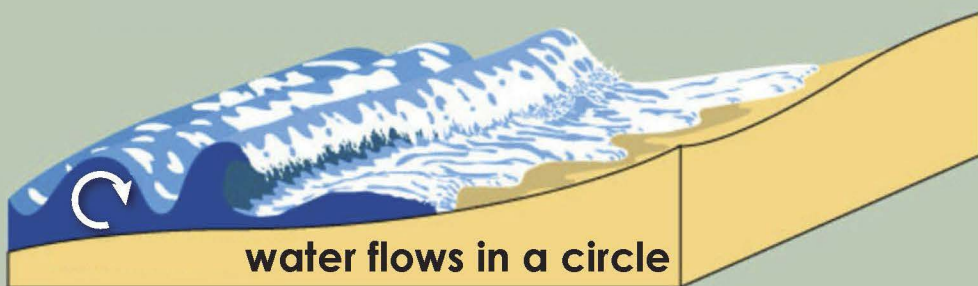


- 3 As waves enter shallower water, they compress, their speed slows, and they build in height.
- 4 The wave height increases, and associated currents intensify, becoming a threat to life and property.

# NO! Tsunami waves are different from regular waves

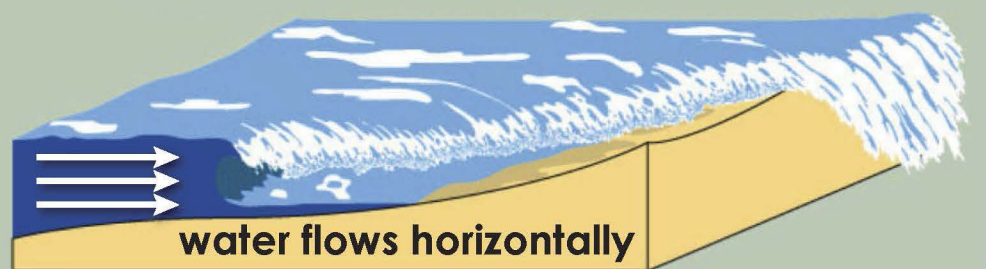
## Regular Waves

- waves come and go without flooding higher areas



## Tsunami Waves

- dangerous, unpredictable, and no face to surf
- waves flood the land like a wall of water



## Consider ANY of the following: “Natural” Warnings (local tsunami)

- Feel a strong or long earthquake
- See an abnormal rise or fall of the ocean
- Hear a loud roar from the ocean

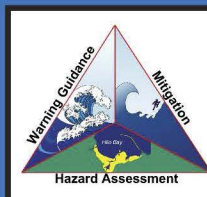
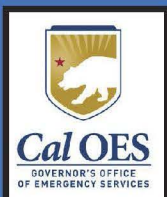
## Official Warnings (distant tsunami)

- Wireless Emergency Alerts
- Radio. TV. Telephone. Text Messages
- Outdoor sirens

## Be Tsunami “Tsmart”

### How can I be prepared for a tsunami?

1. Know the evacuation routes and safe areas for your community.
2. If you feel a strong earthquake while along or near the coast, drop, cover, and hold on.
3. Then when it is safe leave the beach, go to high ground or go inland as soon as you can.



National Tsunami  
Hazard Mitigation  
Program



For More Information:  
[www.tsunami.ca.gov](http://www.tsunami.ca.gov)  
[www.tsunamizone.org](http://www.tsunamizone.org)