



## Media Release

Date: 30 September 2009  
Release No: 2

Time: 9.10am  
Emergency Event: Tsunami Watch

### **Up to 1 Metre Tsunami Expected on Southland Coast**

Southland residents are advised to continue listening to their radios for advice concerning a tsunami which is travelling southwards across the Pacific.

A tsunami warning has been issued for all of New Zealand by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, following a magnitude 8.3 earthquake off the coast of Samoa this morning.

Southland Civil Defence Controller Ken Swinney said that the initial assessment was that if a tsunami reaches the Southland and Fiordland coast, the wave height is unlikely to be higher than 1 metre.

There is also likely to be a period of fluctuations in sea level and currents around the Southland coast from about 10.30am today. Strong currents and sudden changes in current direction may also occur.

The first sign of a tsunami may be a decrease in water level or the sea receding from the coast, rather than an incoming wave. The effects will be more noticeable in shallow water and the effects may last for several hours.

“We recommend that owners of small boats in shallow bays move to deeper water where practicable and that owners of moored boats check their moorings and be prepared to move if necessary.

“It is very important that the public should keep away from beaches and shorelines.”

Mr Swinney said that people who live in coastal areas should continue listening to More FM, Classic Hits or Newstalk ZB radio stations for further instructions.

ENDS

This release has been authorised by Ken Swinney, Controller for the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

A further update will be issued at 10am unless the situation changes.

Contact Michele Poole, Public Information Manager, 021 784964