



## Media Release

Date: 30 September 2009  
Release No: 5

Time: 11.35am  
Emergency Event: Tsunami Watch

### **Southland Civil Defence on Alert for Second Wave**

A tsunami alert remains in place for the Southland and Fiordland coast because of the possibility that a second wave, higher than the first, may be on its way.

The Southland Civil Defence Controller Ken Swinney said that the Ministry of Civil Defence has downgraded the warning to an alert, following the arrival of a 40cm wave on the North Island coast.

However, reports have been received that a second wave, up to 1 metre high, has been recorded at Raoul Island.

Consequently, the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Group remains operational and Southlanders are still required to stay away from the coast. Whitebaiters should move away from the lower reaches of Southland rivers until further notice.

Mr Swinney said there is a strong risk of disturbed waves and currents, particularly in shallow waters around the coast, for several hours from about lunchtime today and small boat owners are advised to be watchful.

A further update will be issued when more information about the second wave is received.

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 midday unless the situation changes.

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