



## Media Release

Date: 30 September 2009  
Release No: 8

Time: 15.32  
Emergency Event: Tsunami Watch

### **Southland Public Praised for Calm Response**

Southlanders have been praised for their calm response to today's tsunami alert.

Southland Civil Defence Group Controller Ken Swinney said that the southern coast could expect several hours of disturbed wave and current patterns as a consequence of this morning's earthquake off Samoa. No large or damaging tsunamis are now expected to reach Southland waters, but the potential for risk to small craft remains, particularly in shallow water around the coast.

It would be sensible to err on the side of caution and stay away from Southland beaches. Anyone whitebaiting in the lower reaches of rivers should be watchful.

Mr Swinney thanked the Southland public for their calm and sensible approach to this morning's warning. Most people had listened to local radio stations for updates and had followed advice to stay away from the coast.

He also thanked the police for their cooperation, and the media, harbour authorities and marine radio operators for their help in getting important messages through to the public accurately and swiftly.

The Southland Regional Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre will continue to be staffed for the rest of the afternoon and is monitoring wave level recorders at Bluff and further north.

ENDS

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

No further updates will be issued for this event, unless the situation changes  
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